MARVEL

EPIC COLLECTION

EXCALIBUR

CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER

DAVIS • LODBELL • BRAITHWAITE • SIMPSON • FRY • MADUREIRA

MARVEL COMICS
EXCALIBUR™
X-MEN®
NO MORE!
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$1.75 US
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EARLY DEC
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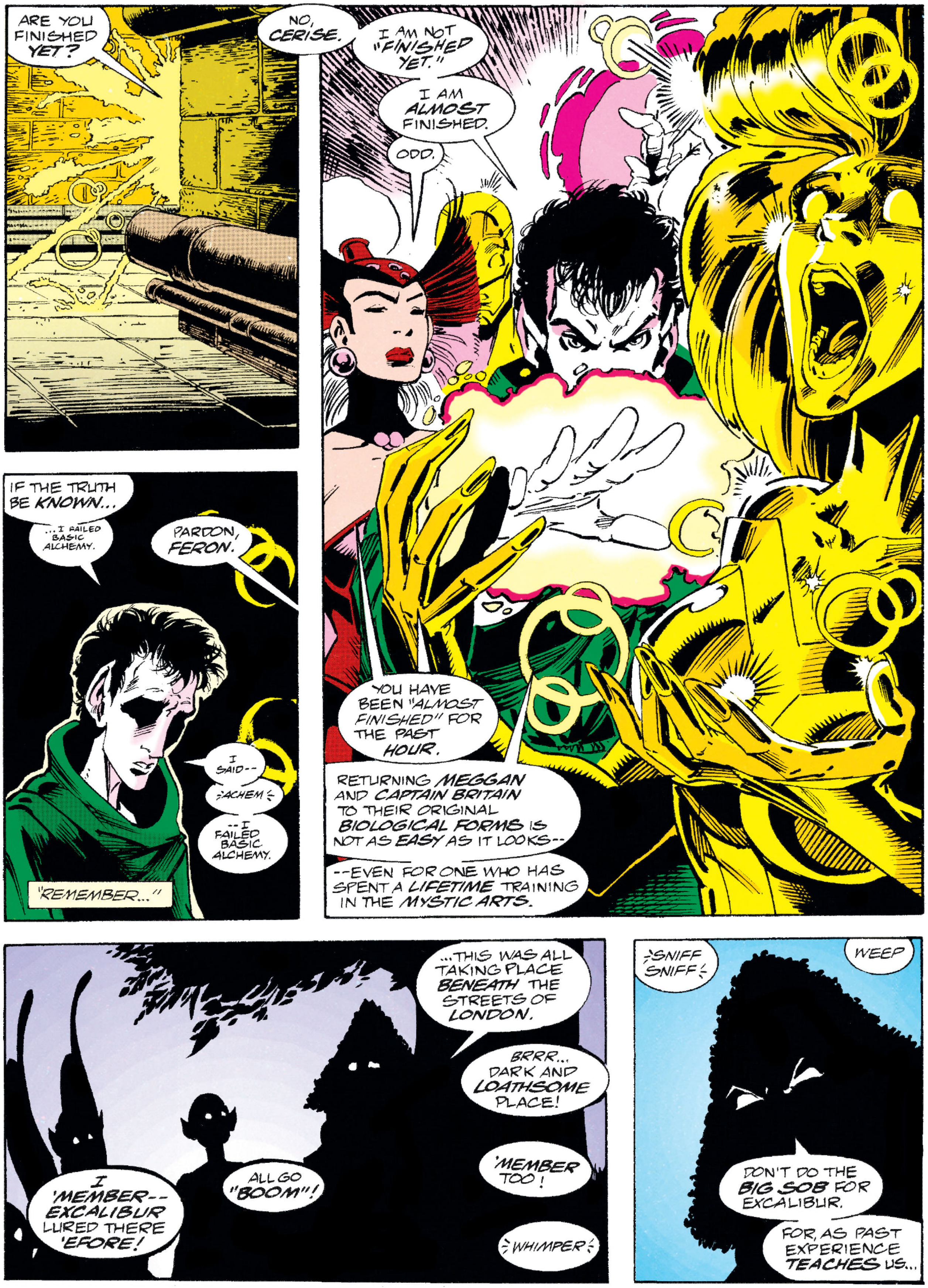
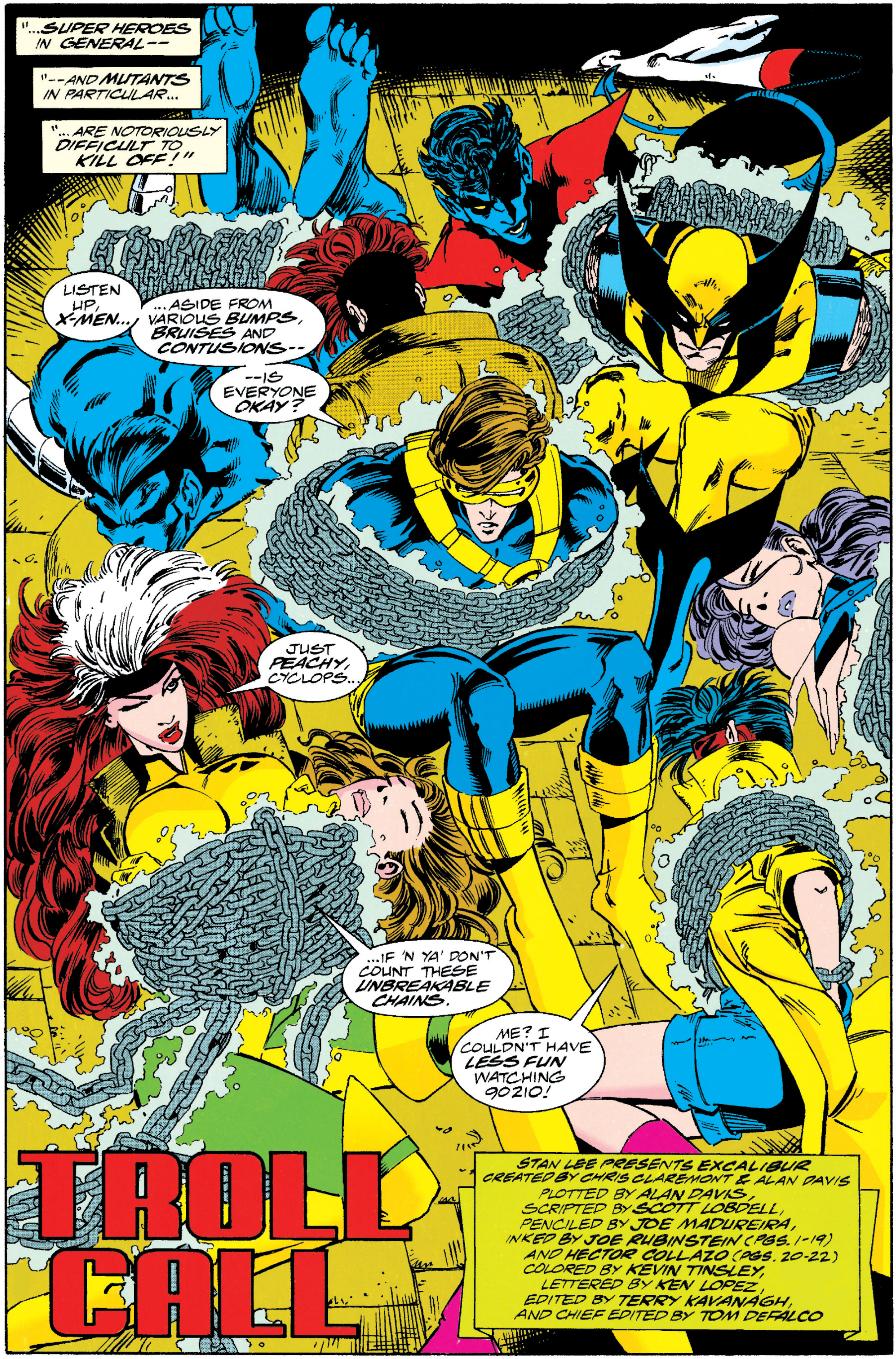
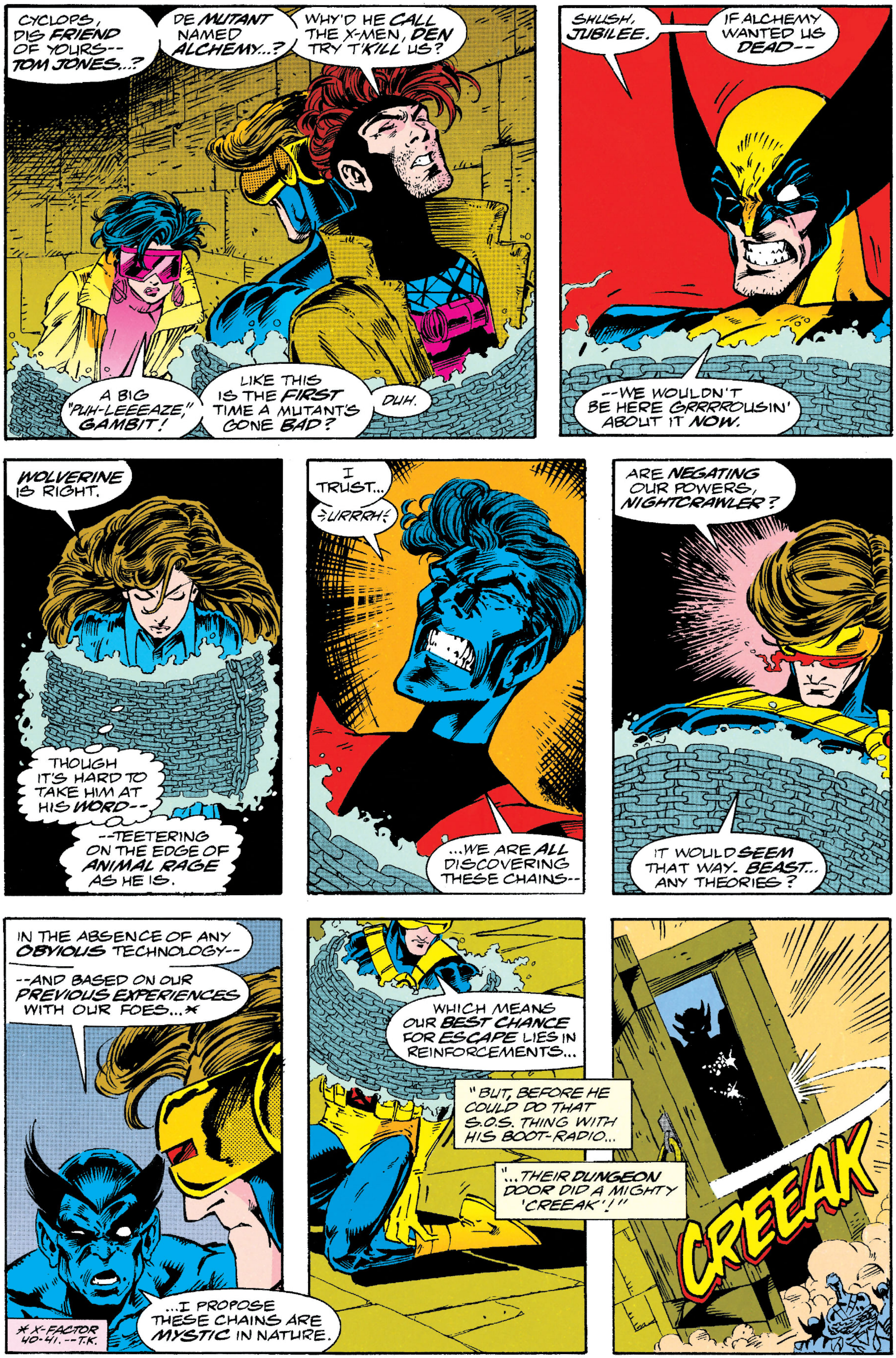
BEYOND VIDEO... THE NEW Dragon Quest™ GAME!
(Announcements Inside)

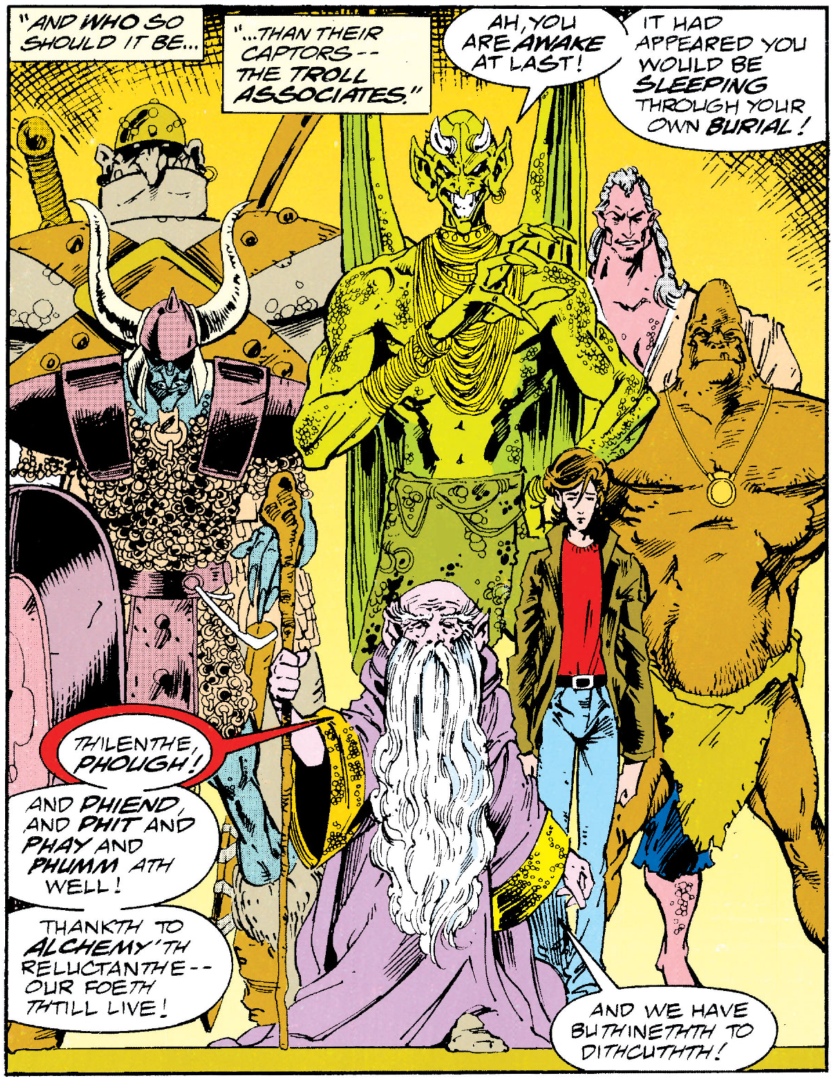

ARE YOU FINISHED YET?
NO, CERISE.
I AM NOT "FINISHED YET."
I AM ALMOST FINISHED.
ODD.
IF THE TRUTH BE KNOWN...
...I FAILED BASIC ALCHEMY.
PARDON, FERON.
I SAID--
-ACHEM-
--I FAILED BASIC ALCHEMY.
"REMEMBER..."
YOU HAVE BEEN "ALMOST FINISHED" FOR THE PAST HOUR.
RETURNING MEGGAN AND CAPTAIN BRITAIN TO THEIR ORIGINAL BIOLOGICAL FORMS IS NOT AS EASY AS IT LOOKS--
--EVEN FOR ONE WHO HAS SPENT A LIFETIME TRAINING IN THE MYSTIC ARTS.
...THIS WAS ALL TAKING PLACE BENEATH THE STREETS OF LONDON.
BRRR... DARK AND LOATHSOME PLACE!
'MEMBER TOO!
I 'MEMBER--EXCALIBUR LURED THERE 'EFORE!
ALL GO "BOOM"!
-WHIMPER-
-SNIFF SNIFF-
WEEP
DON'T DO THE BIG SOB FOR EXCALIBUR.
FOR, AS PAST EXPERIENCE TEACHES US...

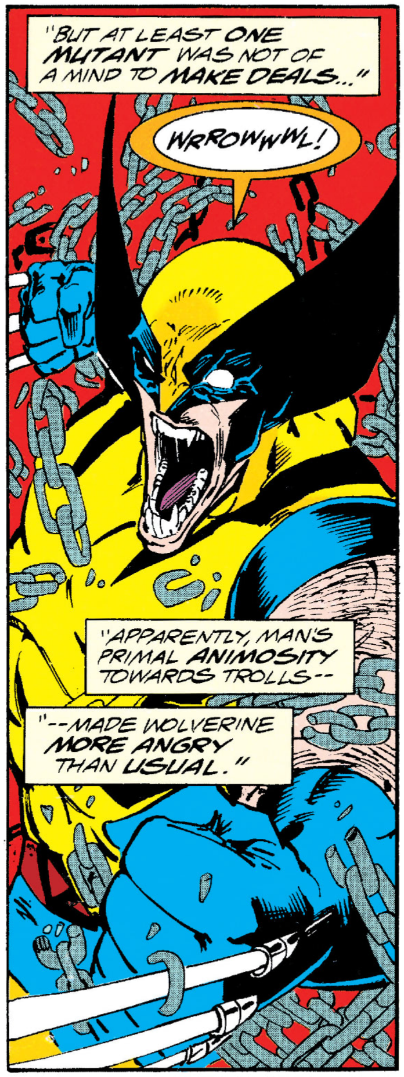

"...SUPER HEROES IN GENERAL--
"--AND MUTANTS IN PARTICULAR...
"...ARE NOTORIOUSLY DIFFICULT TO KILL OFF!"
LISTEN UP, X-MEN...
...ASIDE FROM VARIOUS BUMPS, BRUISES AND CONTUSIONS--
--IS EVERYONE OKAY?
JUST PEACHY, CYCLOPS...
...IF 'N YA' DON'T COUNT THESE UNBREAKABLE CHAINS.
ME? I COULDN'T HAVE LESS FUN WATCHING 90210!

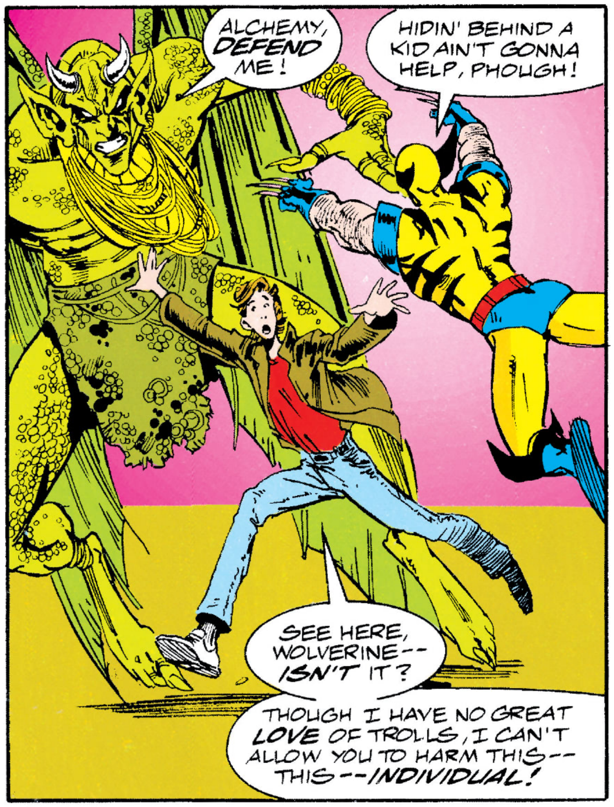
TROLL CALL

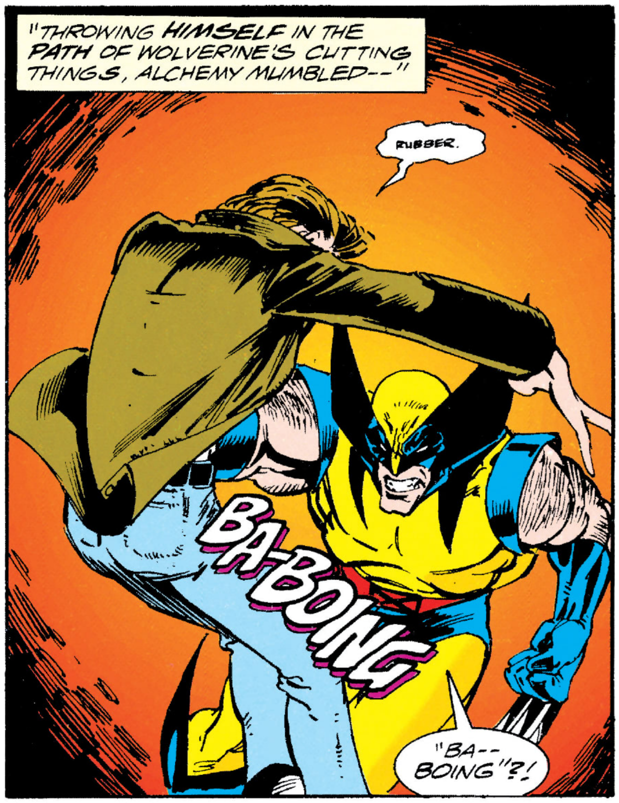
STAN LEE PRESENTS EXCALIBUR
CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT & ALAN DAVIS
PLOTTED BY ALAN DAVIS,
SCRIPTED BY SCOTT LOBDELL,
PENCILED BY JOE MADUREIRA,
INKED BY JOE RUBINSTEIN (PGS. 1-19)
AND HECTOR COLLAZO (PGS. 20-22)
COLORED BY KEVIN TINSLEY,
LETTERED BY KEN LOPEZ,
EDITED BY TERRY KAVANAGH,
AND CHIEF EDITED BY TOM DEFALCO

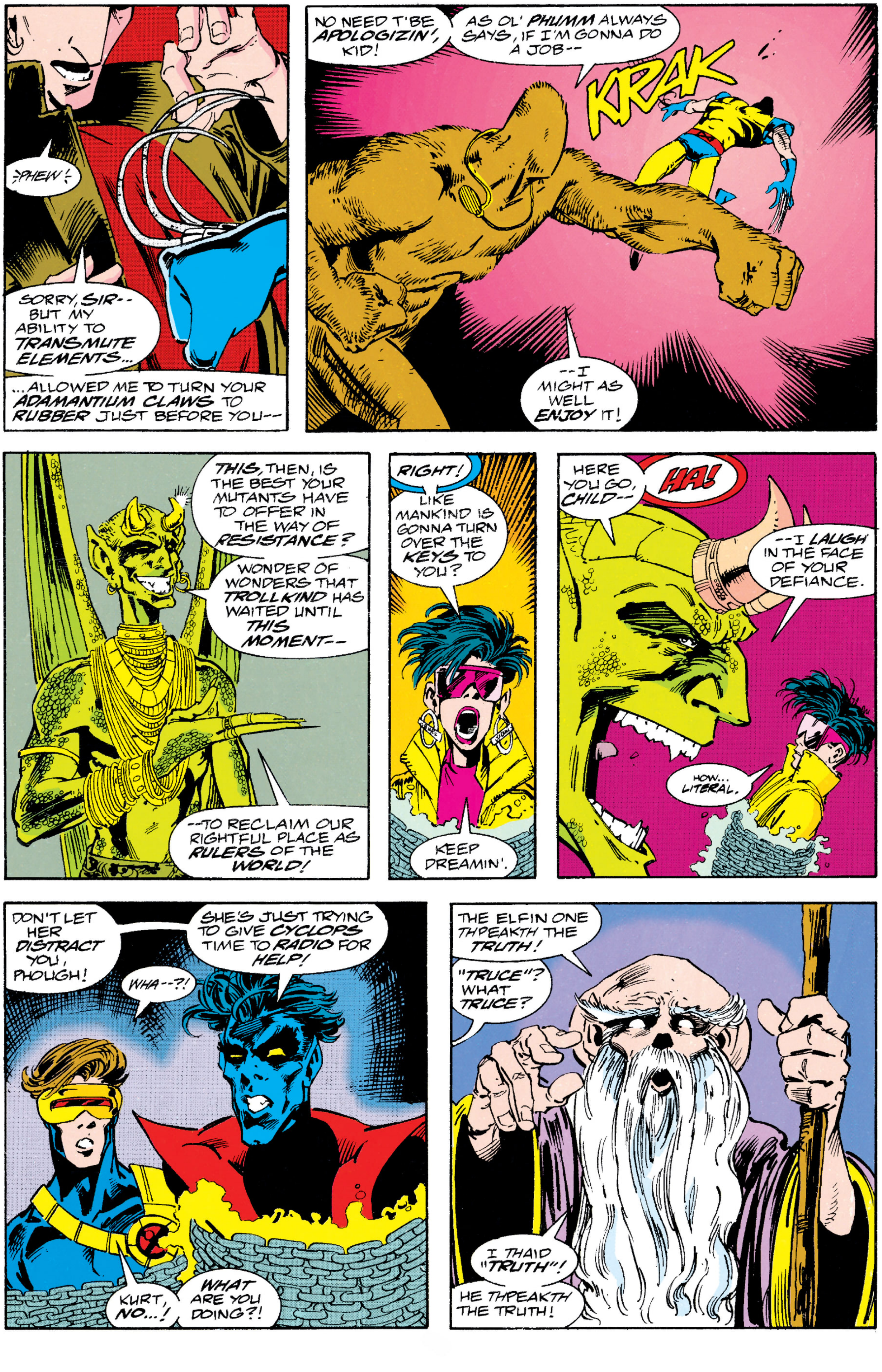

CYCLOPS, DIS FRIEND OF YOURS-- TOM JONES...?
DE MUTANT NAMED ALCHEMY...?
WHY'D HE CALL THE X-MEN, DEN TRY T'KILL US?
A BIG "PUH-LEEEAZE," GAMBIT!
LIKE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A MUTANT'S GONE BAD?
DUH.
SHUSH, JUBILEE.
IF ALCHEMY WANTED US DEAD--
--WE WOULDN'T BE HERE GRRRROUSIN' ABOUT IT NOW.
WOLVERINE IS RIGHT.
THOUGH IT'S HARD TO TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD--
--TEETERING ON THE EDGE OF ANIMAL RAGE AS HE IS.
I TRUST...
URRRH
...WE ARE ALL DISCOVERING THESE CHAINS--
ARE NEGATING OUR POWERS, NIGHTCRAWLER?
IT WOULD SEEM THAT WAY. BEAST... ANY THEORIES?
IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OBVIOUS TECHNOLOGY--
--AND BASED ON OUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES WITH OUR FOES...*
...I PROPOSE THESE CHAINS ARE MYSTIC IN NATURE.
* X-FACTOR 40-41. --T.K.
WHICH MEANS OUR BEST CHANCE FOR ESCAPE LIES IN REINFORCEMENTS...
"BUT, BEFORE HE COULD DO THAT S.O.S. THING WITH HIS BOOT-RADIO...
"...THEIR DUNGEON DOOR DID A MIGHTY 'CREEAK'!"
CREEAK

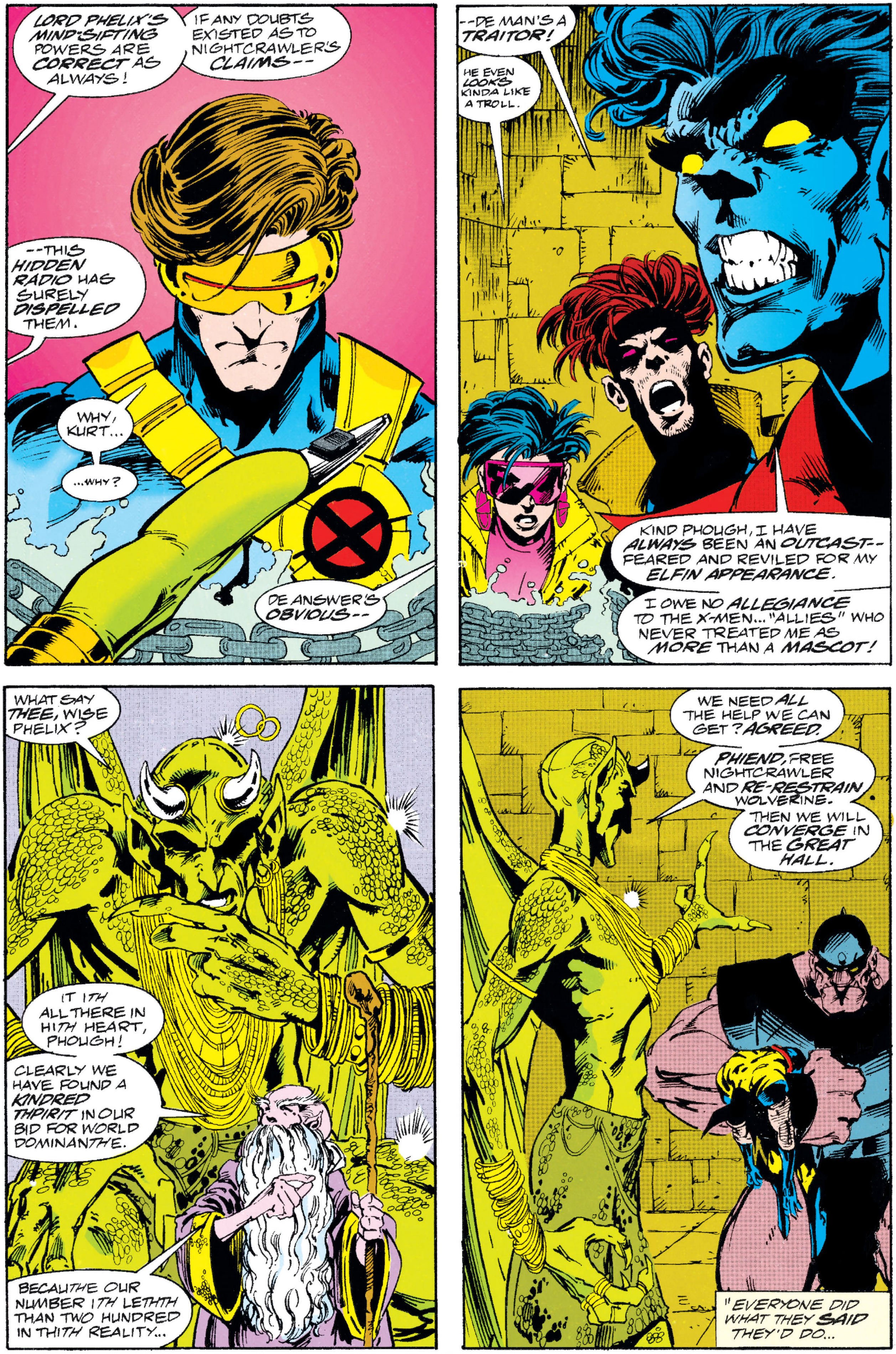

"AND WHO SO SHOULD IT BE...
"...THAN THEIR CAPTORS -- THE TROLL ASSOCIATES."
AH, YOU ARE AWAKE AT LAST!
IT HAD APPEARED YOU WOULD BE SLEEPING THROUGH YOUR OWN BURIAL!
THILENTHE, PHOUGH!
AND PHIEND, AND PHIT AND PHAY AND PHUMM ATH WELL!
THANKTH TO ALCHEMY'TH RELUCTANTHE -- OUR FOETH THTILL LIVE!
AND WE HAVE BUTHINETHTH TO DITHCUTHTH!

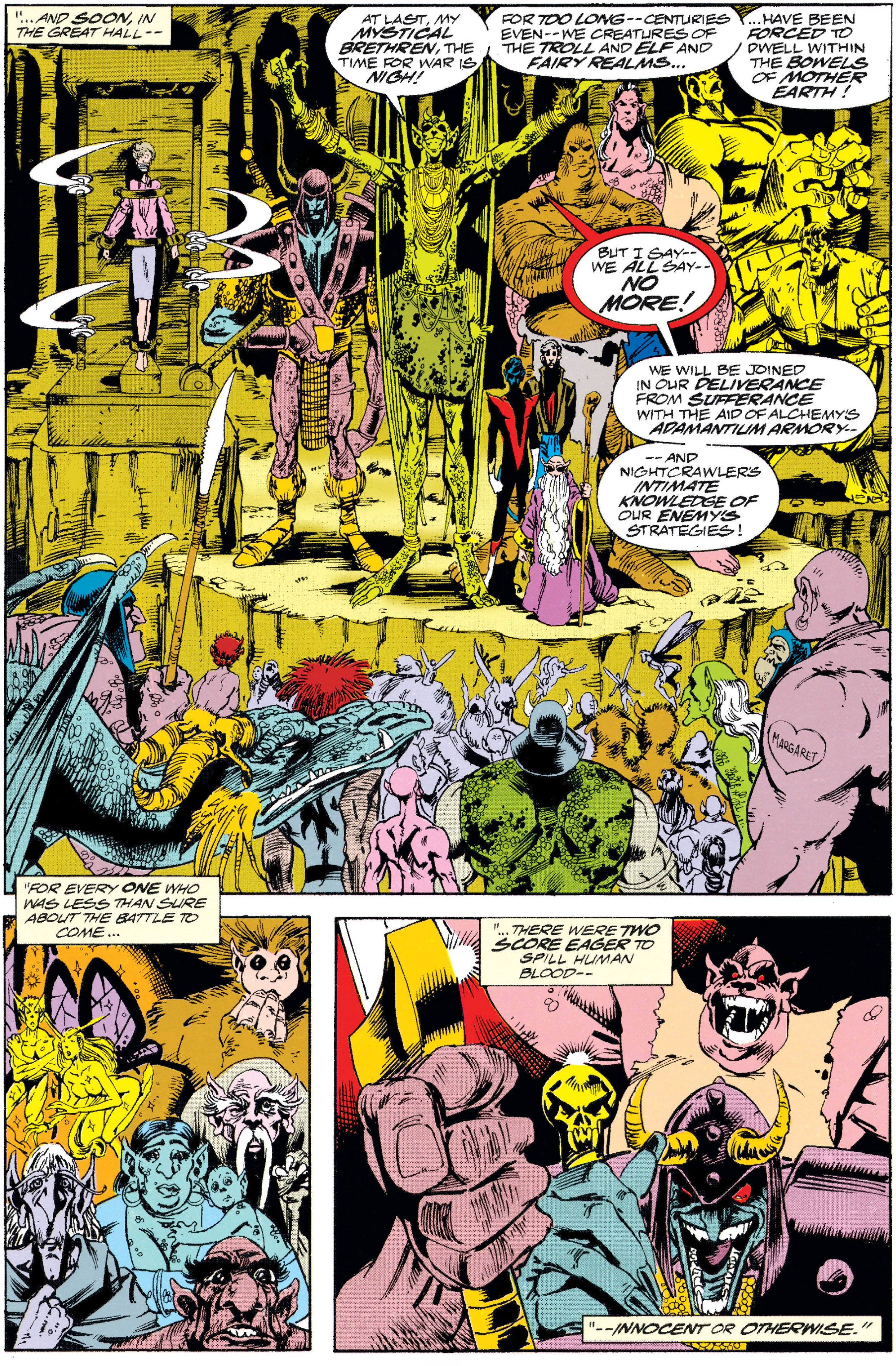

"BUT AT LEAST ONE MUTANT WAS NOT OF A MIND TO MAKE DEALS..."
WRROWWWL!
"APPARENTLY, MAN'S PRIMAL ANIMOSITY TOWARDS TROLLS--
"--MADE WOLVERINE MORE ANGRY THAN USUAL."

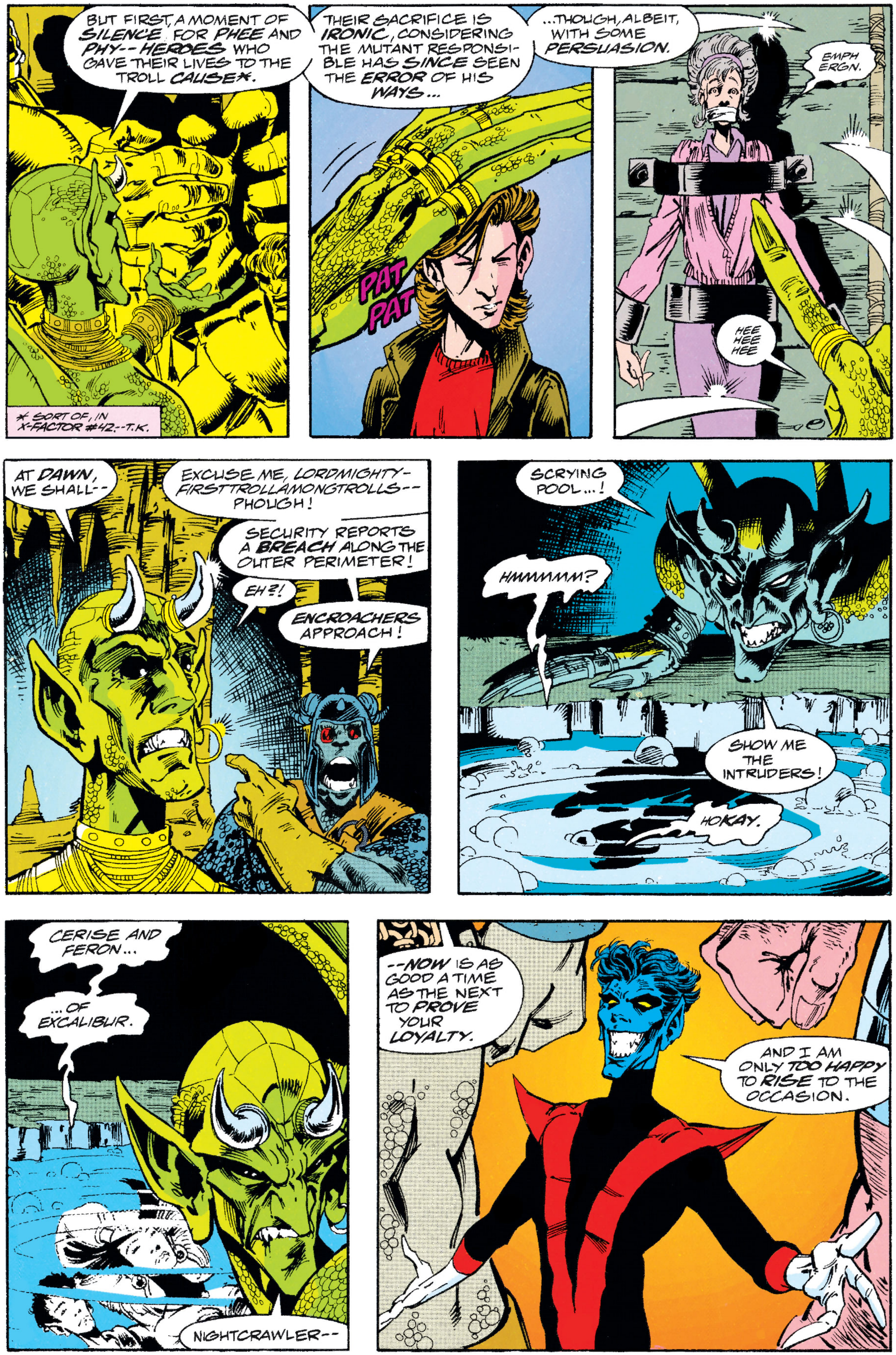

ALCHEMY, DEFEND ME!
HIDIN' BEHIND A KID AIN'T GONNA HELP, PHOUGH!
SEE HERE, WOLVERINE-- ISN'T IT?
THOUGH I HAVE NO GREAT LOVE OF TROLLS, I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO HARM THIS-- THIS--INDIVIDUAL!

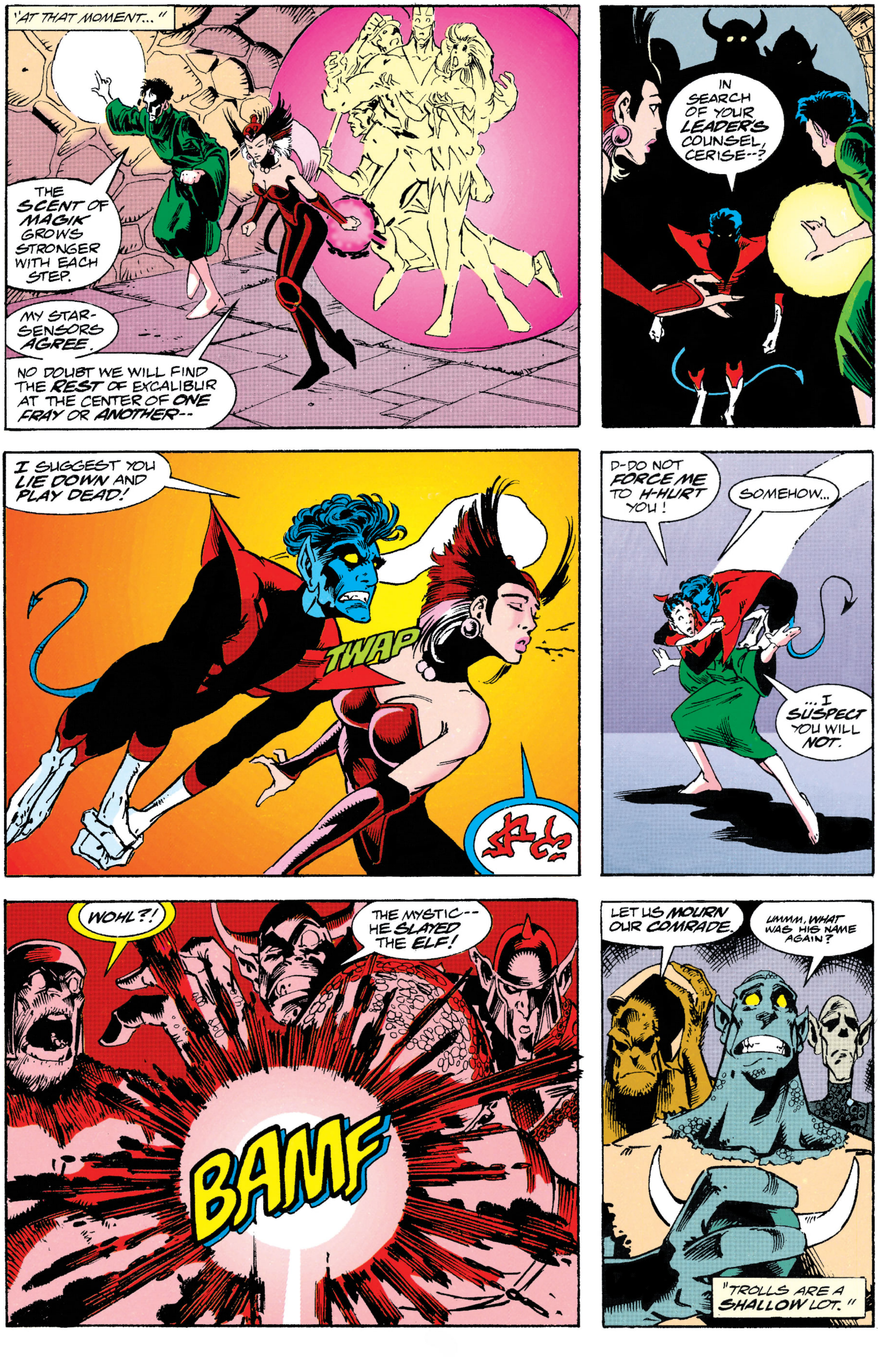

"THROWING HIMSELF IN THE PATH OF WOLVERINE'S CUTTING THINGS, ALCHEMY MUMBLED--"
RUBBER.
BA-BOING
"BA-- BOING"?!

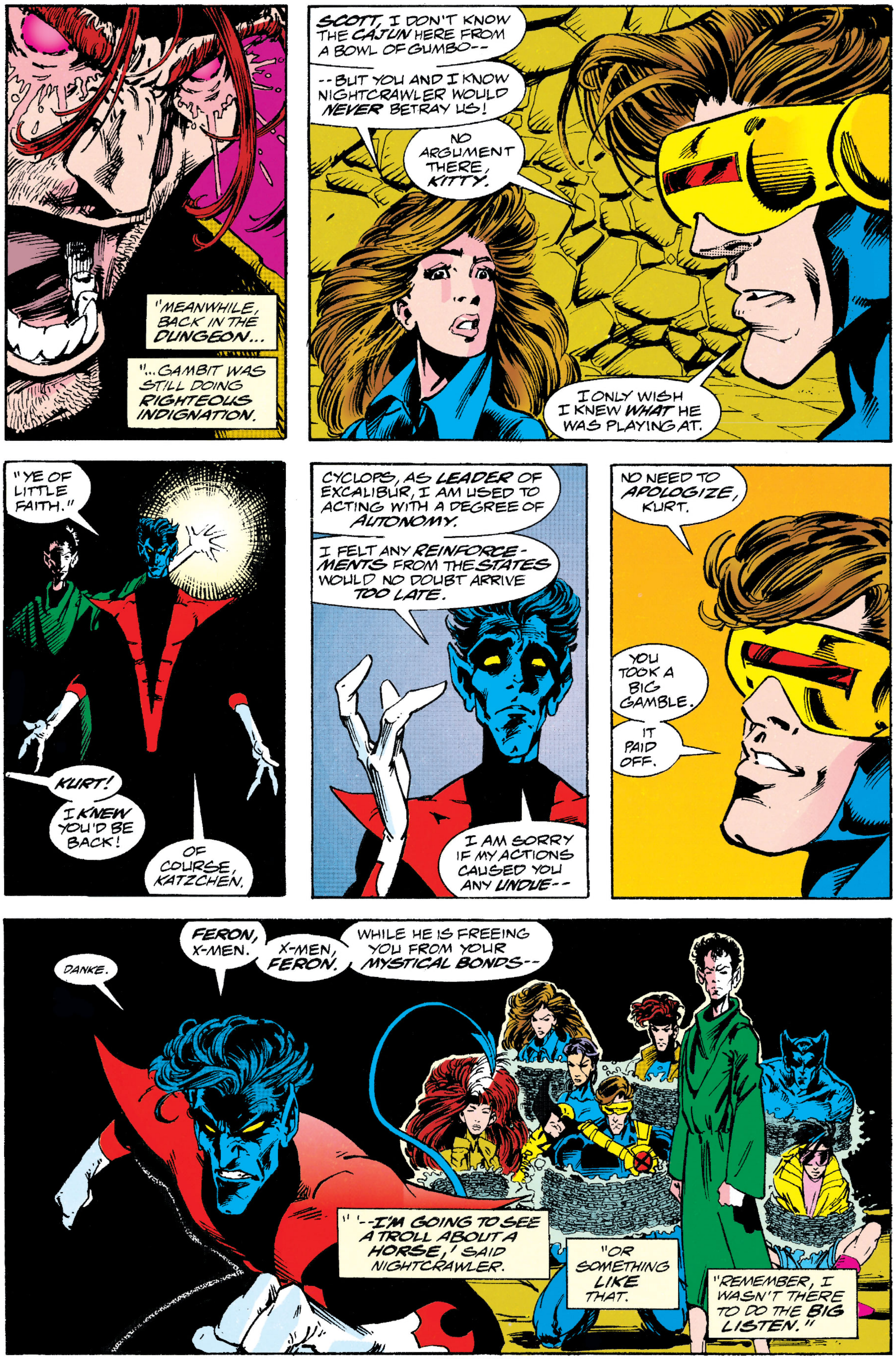

¡PHEW!
SORRY, SIR-- BUT MY ABILITY TO TRANSMUTE ELEMENTS...
...ALLOWED ME TO TURN YOUR ADAMANTIUM CLAWS TO RUBBER JUST BEFORE YOU--
NO NEED T'BE APOLOGIZIN', KID!
AS OL' PHUMM ALWAYS SAYS, IF I'M GONNA DO A JOB--
KRAK
--I MIGHT AS WELL ENJOY IT!
THIS, THEN, IS THE BEST YOUR MUTANTS HAVE TO OFFER IN THE WAY OF RESISTANCE?
WONDER OF WONDERS THAT TROLLKIND HAS WAITED UNTIL THIS MOMENT--
--TO RECLAIM OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS RULERS OF THE WORLD!
RIGHT!
LIKE MANKIND IS GONNA TURN OVER THE KEYS TO YOU?
KEEP DREAMIN'.
HERE YOU GO, CHILD--
HA!
--I LAUGH IN THE FACE OF YOUR DEFIANCE.
HOW... LITERAL.
DON'T LET HER DISTRACT YOU, PHOUGH!
SHE'S JUST TRYING TO GIVE CYCLOPS TIME TO RADIO FOR HELP!
WHA--?!
KURT, NO...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THE ELFIN ONE THPEAKTH THE TRUTH!
"TRUCE"? WHAT TRUCE?
I THAID "TRUTH"!
HE THPEAKTH THE TRUTH!


LORD PHELIX'S MIND-SIFTING POWERS ARE CORRECT AS ALWAYS!
IF ANY DOUBTS EXISTED AS TO NIGHTCRAWLER'S CLAIMS--
--THIS HIDDEN RADIO HAS SURELY DISPELLED THEM.
WHY, KURT...
...WHY?
DE ANSWER'S OBVIOUS--
--DE MAN'S A TRAITOR!
HE EVEN LOOKS KINDA LIKE A TROLL.
KIND PHOUGH, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AN OUTCAST-- FEARED AND REVILED FOR MY ELFIN APPEARANCE.
I OWE NO ALLEGIANCE TO THE X-MEN... "ALLIES" WHO NEVER TREATED ME AS MORE THAN A MASCOT!
WHAT SAY THEE, WISE PHELIX?
IT ITH ALL THERE IN HITH HEART, PHOUGH!
CLEARLY WE HAVE FOUND A KINDRED THPIRIT IN OUR BID FOR WORLD DOMINANTHE.
BECAUTHE OUR NUMBER ITH LETHTH THAN TWO HUNDRED IN THITH REALITY...
WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET? AGREED.
PHIEND, FREE NIGHTCRAWLER AND RE-RESTRAIN WOLVERINE.
THEN WE WILL CONVERGE IN THE GREAT HALL.
"EVERYONE DID WHAT THEY SAID THEY'D DO...

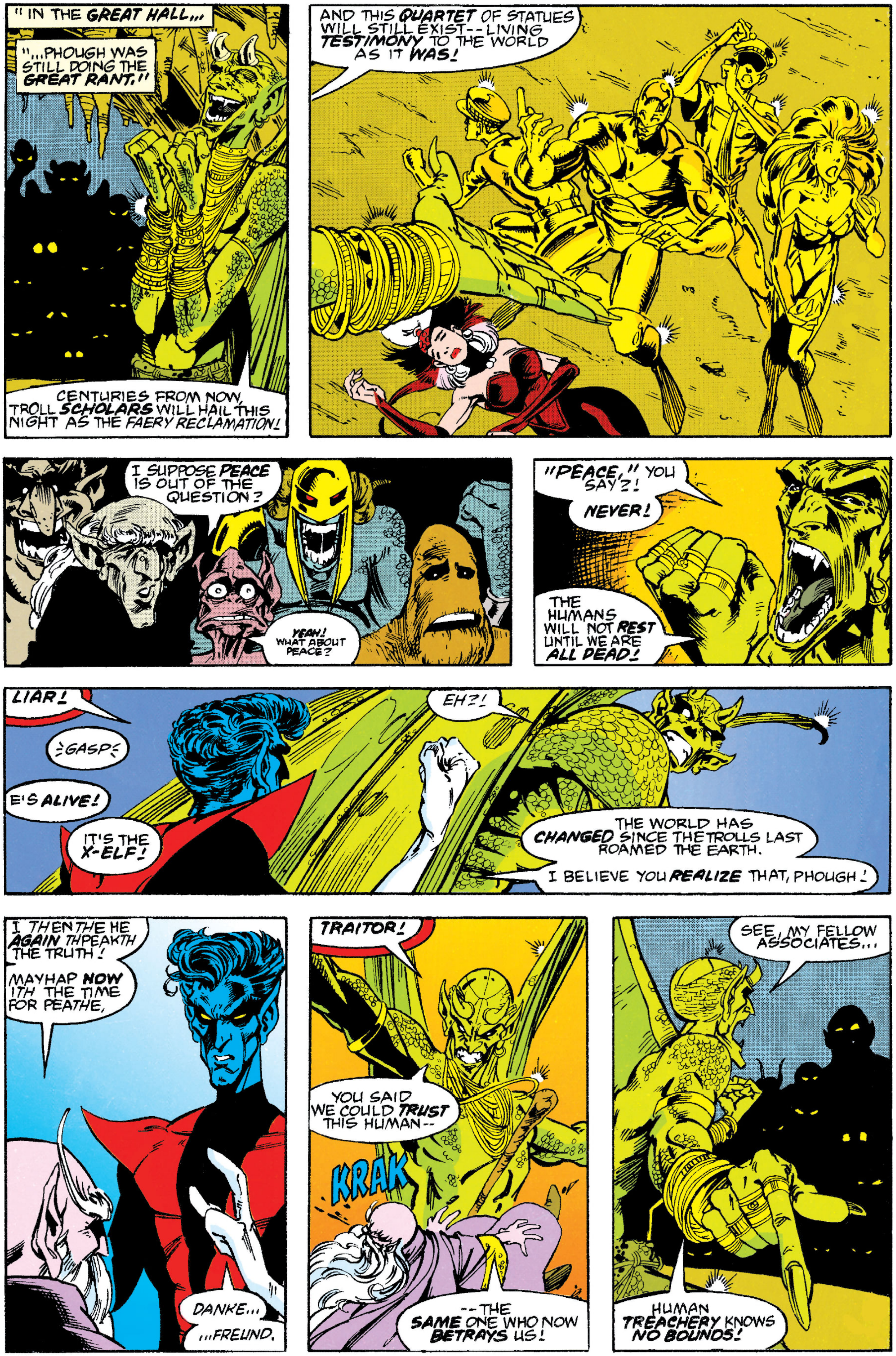

"...AND SOON, IN THE GREAT HALL--
AT LAST, MY MYSTICAL BRETHREN, THE TIME FOR WAR IS NIGH!
FOR TOO LONG--CENTURIES EVEN--WE CREATURES OF THE TROLL AND ELF AND FAIRY REALMS...
...HAVE BEEN FORCED TO DWELL WITHIN THE BOWELS OF MOTHER EARTH!
BUT I SAY-- WE ALL SAY-- NO MORE!
WE WILL BE JOINED IN OUR DELIVERANCE FROM SUFFERANCE WITH THE AID OF ALCHEMY'S ADAMANTIUM ARMORY--
--AND NIGHTCRAWLER'S INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR ENEMY'S STRATEGIES!
MARGARET
"FOR EVERY ONE WHO WAS LESS THAN SURE ABOUT THE BATTLE TO COME...
"...THERE WERE TWO SCORE EAGER TO SPILL HUMAN BLOOD--
"--INNOCENT OR OTHERWISE."

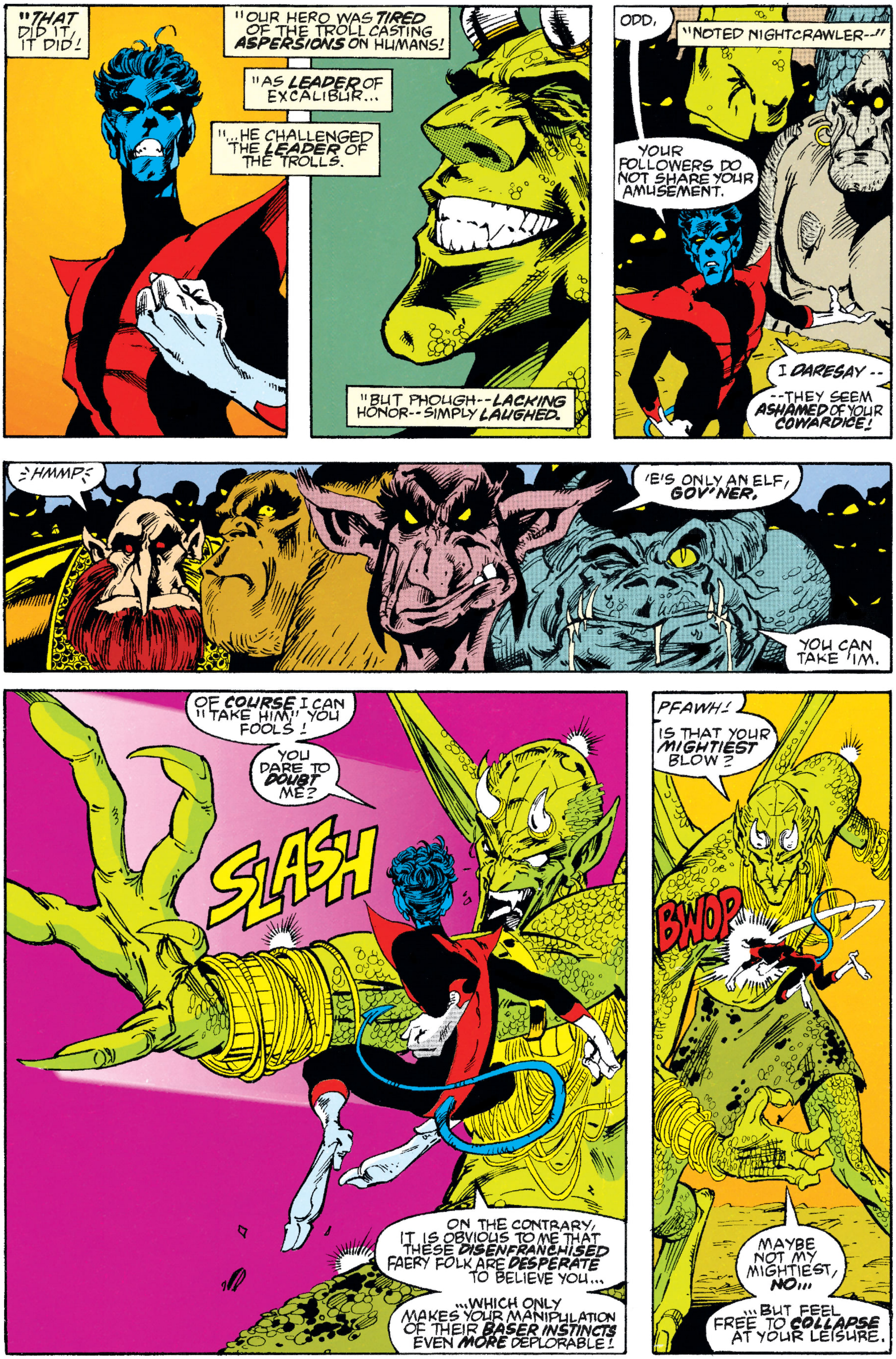

BUT FIRST, A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR PHEE AND PHY--HEROES WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES TO THE TROLL CAUSE*.
* SORT OF, IN X-FACTOR #42.--T.K.
THEIR SACRIFICE IS IRONIC, CONSIDERING THE MUTANT RESPONSIBLE HAS SINCE SEEN THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS...
PAT PAT
...THOUGH, ALBEIT, WITH SOME PERSUASION.
EMPH ERGN.
HEE HEE HEE
AT DAWN, WE SHALL--
EXCUSE ME, LORDMIGHTYFIRSTTROLLAMONGTROLLS--PHOUGH!
SECURITY REPORTS A BREACH ALONG THE OUTER PERIMETER!
EH?!
ENCROACHERS APPROACH!
SCRYING POOL...!
HMMMMM?
SHOW ME THE INTRUDERS!
HOKAY.
CERISE AND FERON...
...OF EXCALIBUR.
NIGHTCRAWLER--
--NOW IS AS GOOD A TIME AS THE NEXT TO PROVE YOUR LOYALTY.
AND I AM ONLY TOO HAPPY TO RISE TO THE OCCASION.

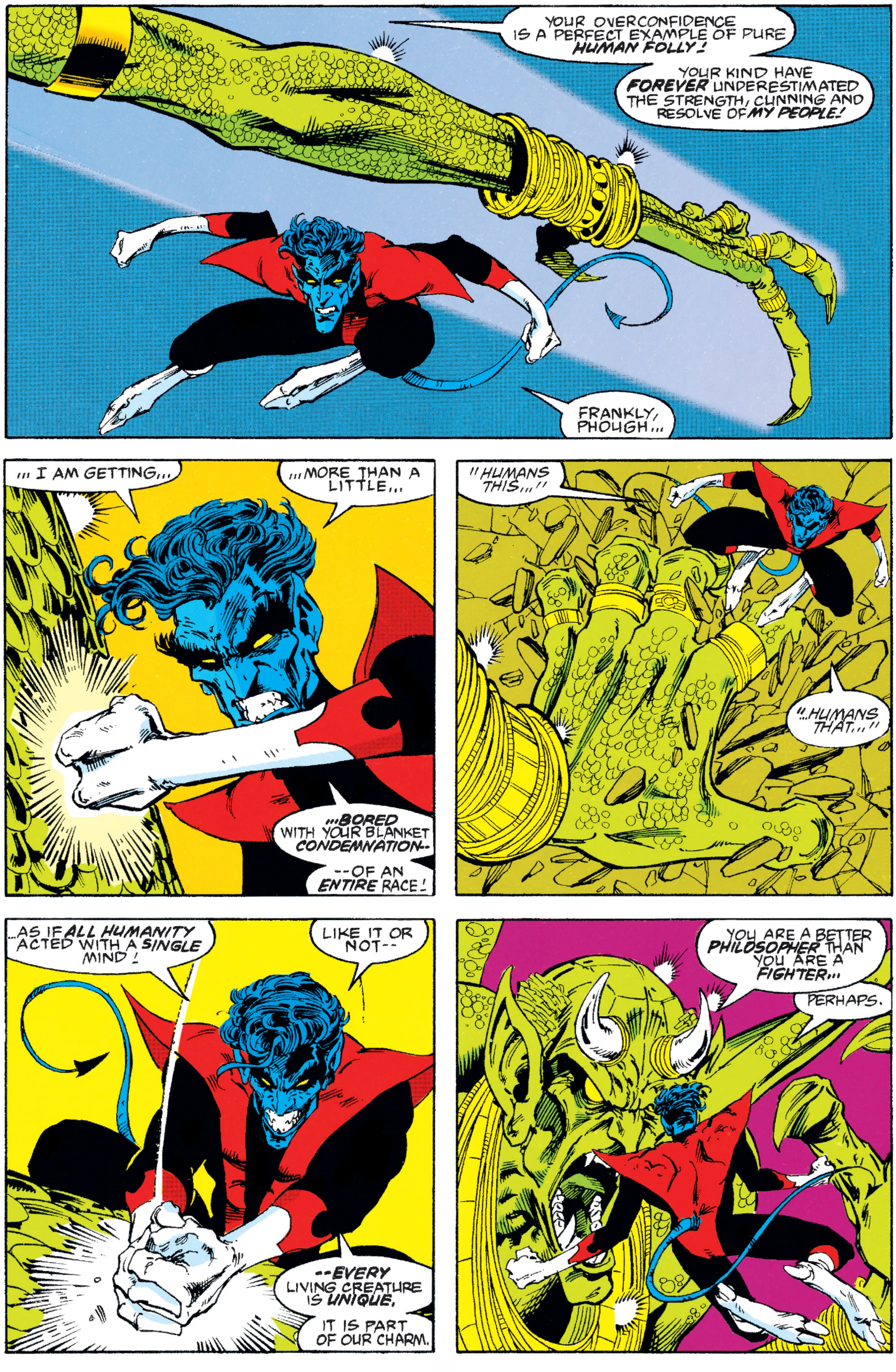

"AT THAT MOMENT..."
THE SCENT OF MAGIK GROWS STRONGER WITH EACH STEP.
MY STAR-SENSORS AGREE.
NO DOUBT WE WILL FIND THE REST OF EXCALIBUR AT THE CENTER OF ONE FRAY OR ANOTHER--
IN SEARCH OF YOUR LEADER'S COUNSEL, CERISE--?
I SUGGEST YOU LIE DOWN AND PLAY DEAD!
TWAP
D-DO NOT FORCE ME TO H-HURT YOU!
SOMEHOW...
...I SUSPECT YOU WILL NOT.
WOHL?!
THE MYSTIC-- HE SLAYED THE ELF!
BAMF
LET US MOURN OUR COMRADE.
UMMM, WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN?
"TROLLS ARE A SHALLOW LOT."

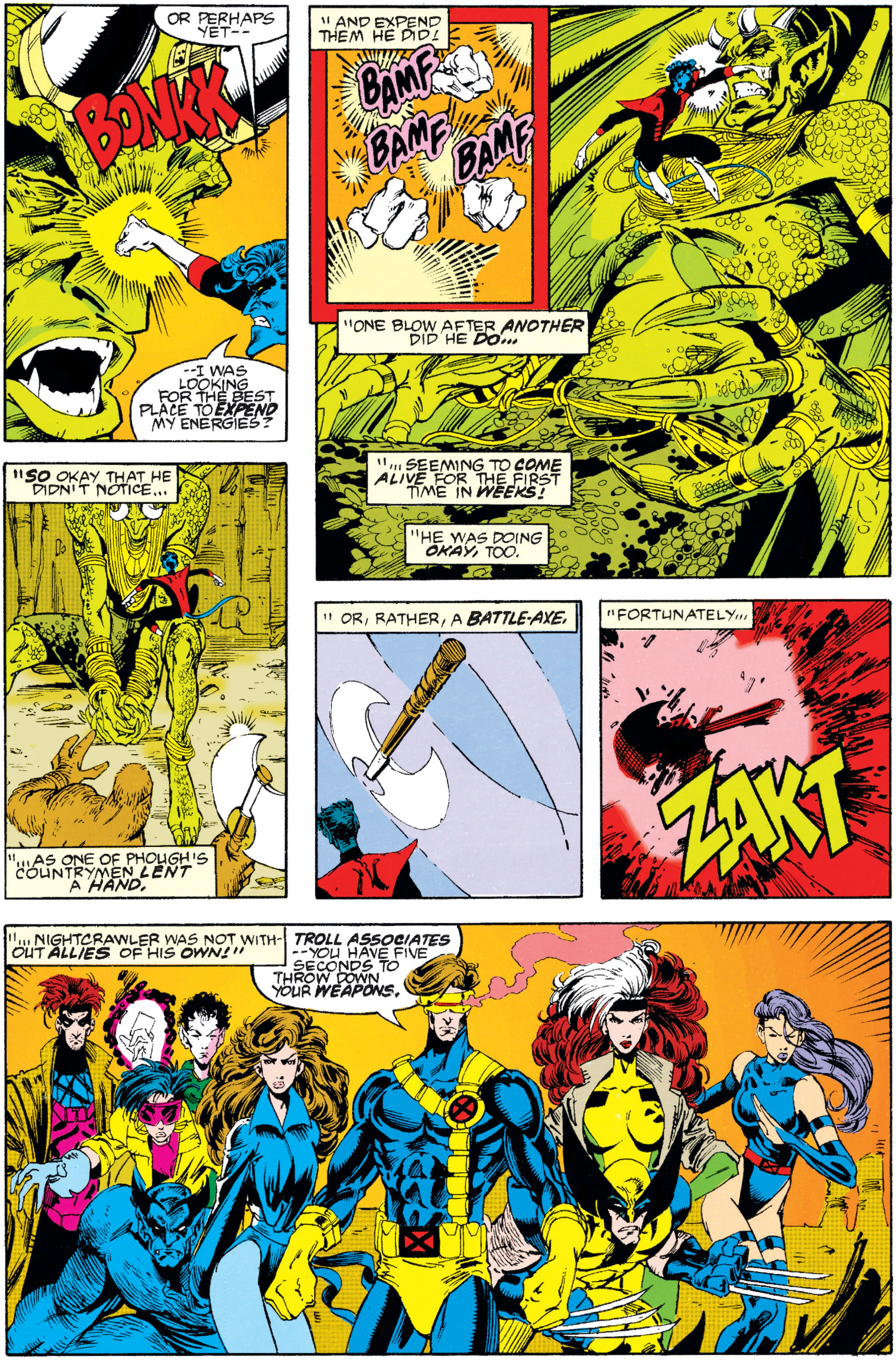


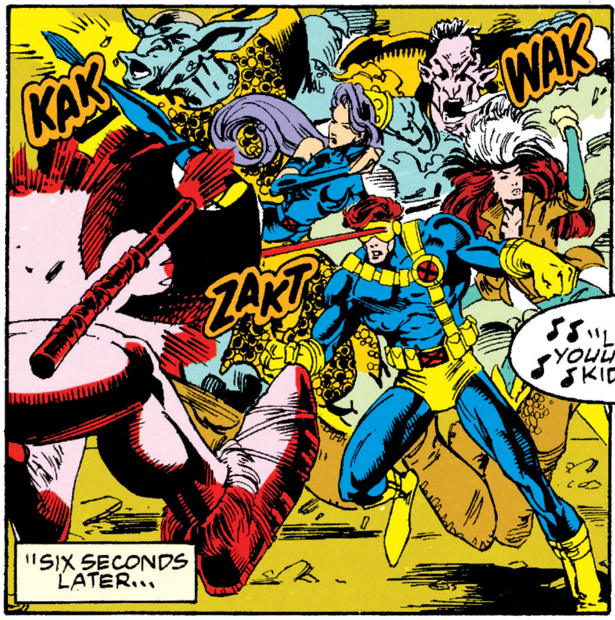
"MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE DUNGEON...
"...GAMBIT WAS STILL DOING RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION.
SCOTT, I DON'T KNOW THE CAJUN HERE FROM A BOWL OF GUMBO--
--BUT YOU AND I KNOW NIGHTCRAWLER WOULD NEVER BETRAY US!
NO ARGUMENT THERE, KITTY.
I ONLY WISH I KNEW WHAT HE WAS PLAYING AT.
"YE OF LITTLE FAITH."
KURT!
I KNEW YOU'D BE BACK!
OF COURSE, KATZCHEN.
CYCLOPS, AS LEADER OF EXCALIBUR, I AM USED TO ACTING WITH A DEGREE OF AUTONOMY.
I FELT ANY REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE STATES WOULD NO DOUBT ARRIVE TOO LATE.
I AM SORRY IF MY ACTIONS CAUSED YOU ANY UNDUE--
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, KURT.
YOU TOOK A BIG GAMBLE.
IT PAID OFF.
DANKE.
FERON, X-MEN.
X-MEN, FERON.
WHILE HE IS FREEING YOU FROM YOUR MYSTICAL BONDS--
"'--I'M GOING TO SEE A TROLL ABOUT A HORSE,' SAID NIGHTCRAWLER.
"OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
"REMEMBER, I WASN'T THERE TO DO THE BIG LISTEN."

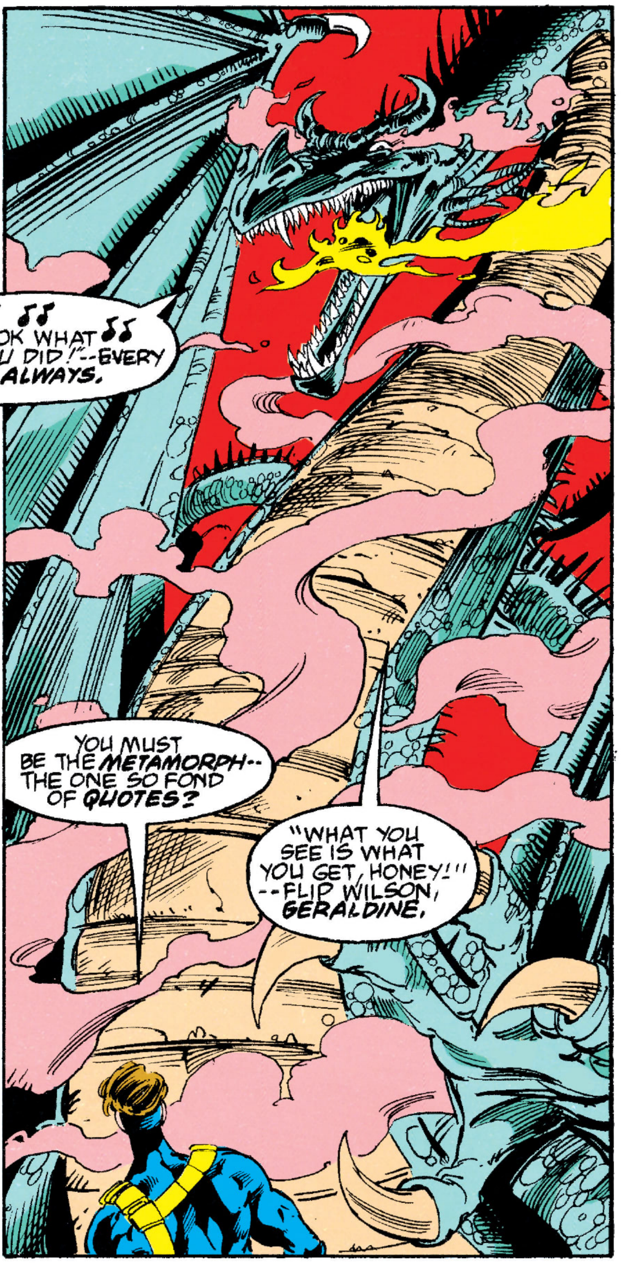

"IN THE GREAT HALL...
"...PHOUGH WAS STILL DOING THE GREAT RANT."
CENTURIES FROM NOW, TROLL SCHOLARS WILL HAIL THIS NIGHT AS THE FAERY RECLAMATION!
AND THIS QUARTET OF STATUES WILL STILL EXIST--LIVING TESTIMONY TO THE WORLD AS IT WAS!
I SUPPOSE PEACE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION?
YEAH! WHAT ABOUT PEACE?
"PEACE," YOU SAY?! NEVER!
THE HUMANS WILL NOT REST UNTIL WE ARE ALL DEAD!
LIAR!
EH?!
GASP
E'S ALIVE!
IT'S THE X-ELF!
THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SINCE THE TROLLS LAST ROAMED THE EARTH.
I BELIEVE YOU REALIZE THAT, PHOUGH!
I THEN THE HE AGAIN THPEAKTH THE TRUTH!
MAYHAP NOW ITH THE TIME FOR PEATHE,
DANKE... ...FREUND.
TRAITOR!
YOU SAID WE COULD TRUST THIS HUMAN--
KRAK
--THE SAME ONE WHO NOW BETRAYS US!
SEE, MY FELLOW ASSOCIATES...
HUMAN TREACHERY KNOWS NO BOUNDS!

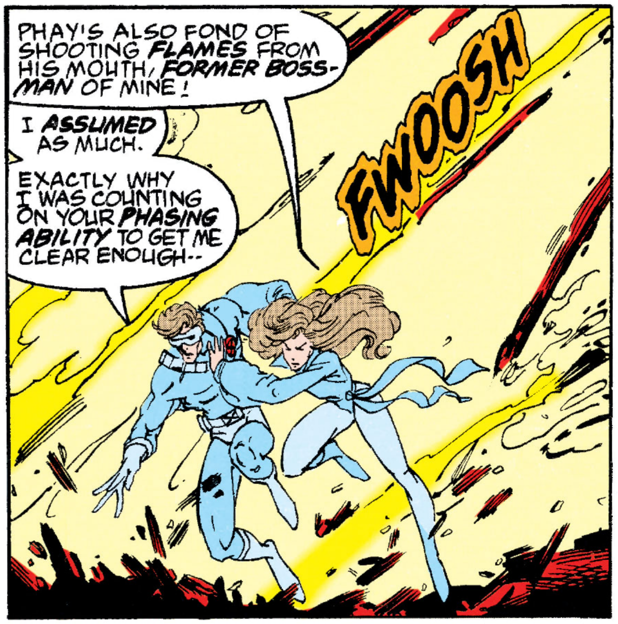

"THAT DID IT, IT DID!
"OUR HERO WAS TIRED OF THE TROLL CASTING ASPERSIONS ON HUMANS!
"AS LEADER OF EXCALIBUR...
"...HE CHALLENGED THE LEADER OF THE TROLLS.
"BUT PHOUGH--LACKING HONOR--SIMPLY LAUGHED.
ODD,
"NOTED NIGHTCRAWLER--"
YOUR FOLLOWERS DO NOT SHARE YOUR AMUSEMENT.
I DARESAY --
--THEY SEEM ASHAMED OF YOUR COWARDICE!
HMMP
'E'S ONLY AN ELF, GOV'NER.
YOU CAN TAKE 'IM.
OF COURSE I CAN "TAKE HIM," YOU FOOLS!
YOU DARE TO DOUBT ME?
SLASH
ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT THESE DISENFRANCHISED FAERY FOLK ARE DESPERATE TO BELIEVE YOU...
...WHICH ONLY MAKES YOUR MANIPULATION OF THEIR BASER INSTINCTS EVEN MORE DEPLORABLE!
PFAWH!
IS THAT YOUR MIGHTIEST BLOW?
BWOP
MAYBE NOT MY MIGHTIEST, NO...
...BUT FEEL FREE TO COLLAPSE AT YOUR LEISURE.

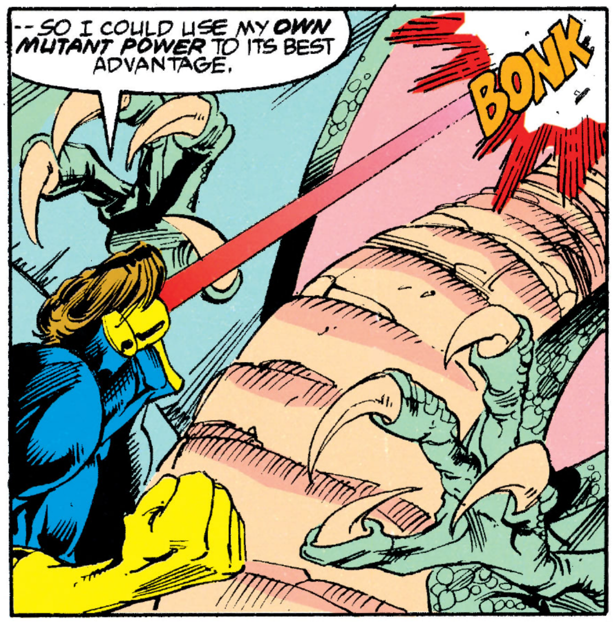

YOUR OVERCONFIDENCE IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF PURE **HUMAN FOLLY!**
YOUR KIND HAVE **FOREVER** UNDERESTIMATED THE STRENGTH, CUNNING AND RESOLVE OF **MY PEOPLE!**
FRANKLY, PHOUGH...
...I AM GETTING...
...MORE THAN A LITTLE...
...**BORED** WITH YOUR BLANKET **CONDEMNATION**--
--OF AN **ENTIRE** RACE!
"*HUMANS THIS...*"
"*...HUMANS THAT...*"
...AS IF **ALL HUMANITY** ACTED WITH A **SINGLE** MIND!
LIKE IT OR NOT--
--**EVERY** LIVING CREATURE IS **UNIQUE.**
IT IS PART OF OUR CHARM.
YOU ARE A BETTER **PHILOSOPHER** THAN YOU ARE A **FIGHTER...**
PERHAPS.

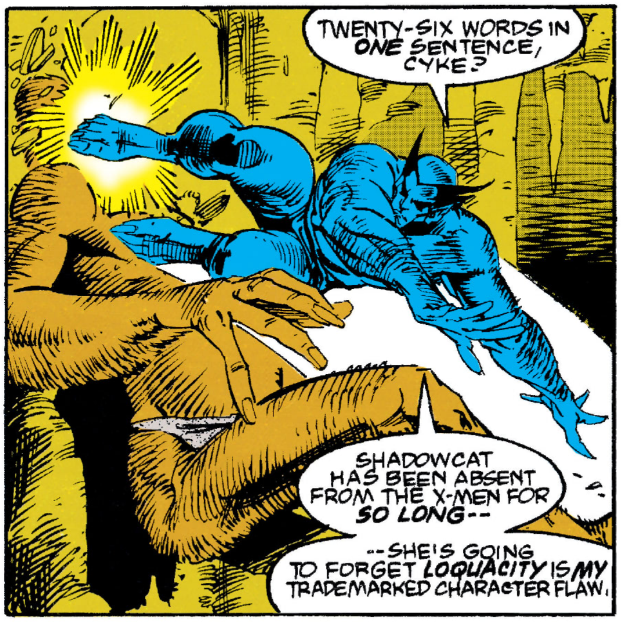

OR PERHAPS YET--
BONKK
--I WAS LOOKING FOR THE BEST PLACE TO *EXPEND* MY ENERGIES?
"AND EXPEND THEM HE DID!
BAMF
BAMF
BAMF
BAMF
"ONE BLOW AFTER *ANOTHER* DID HE *DO*...
"...SEEMING TO *COME ALIVE* FOR THE FIRST TIME IN *WEEKS!*
"HE WAS DOING *OKAY*, TOO.
"*SO* OKAY THAT HE DIDN'T NOTICE...
"...AS ONE OF PHOUGH'S COUNTRYMEN *LENT* A *HAND*.
" OR, RATHER, A *BATTLE-AXE*.
"FORTUNATELY...
ZAKT
"...NIGHTCRAWLER WAS NOT WITHOUT *ALLIES* OF HIS *OWN!*"
TROLL ASSOCIATES --YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS TO THROW DOWN YOUR *WEAPONS*.

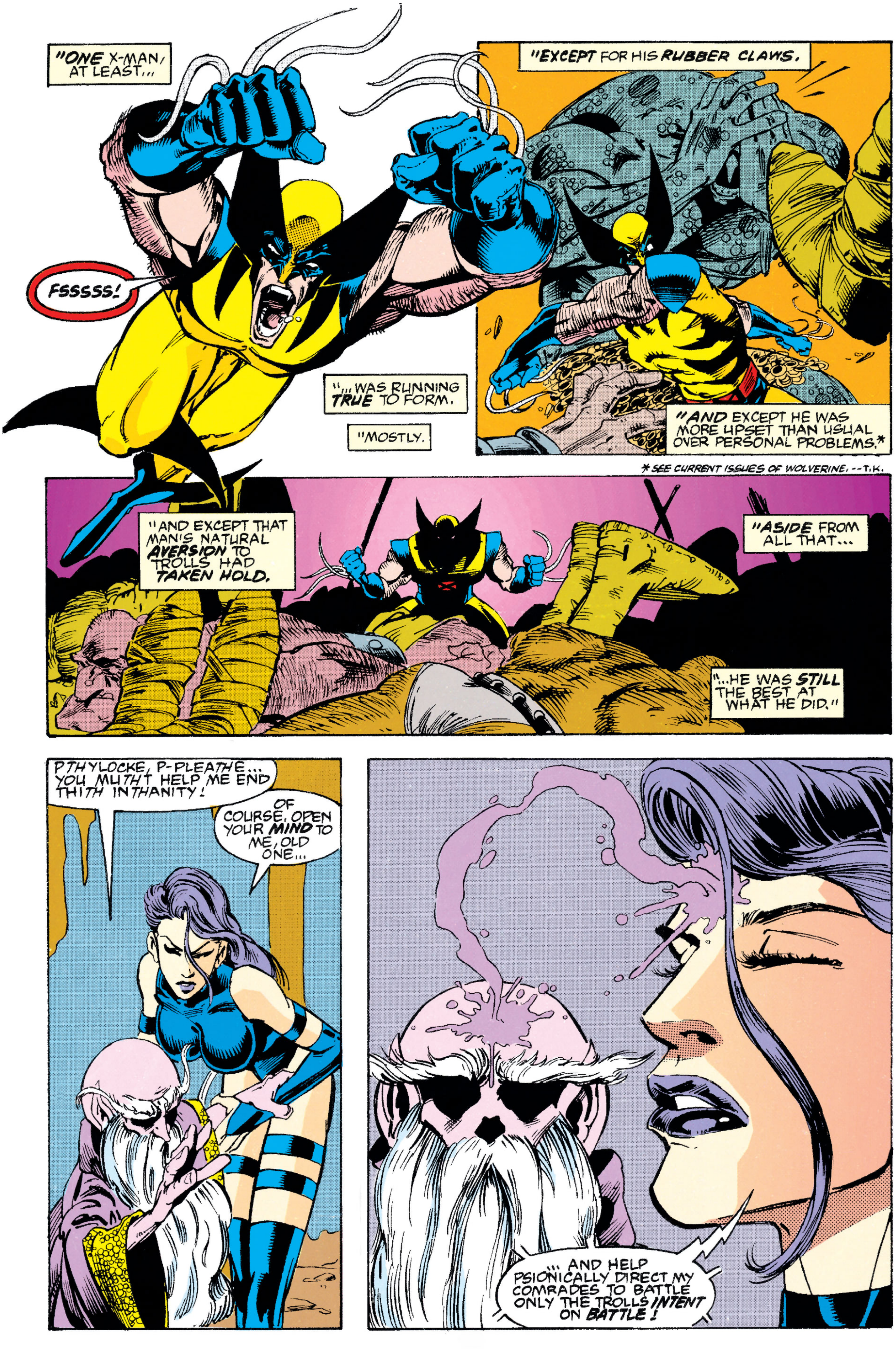

KAK
WAK
ZAKT
"SIX SECONDS LATER...

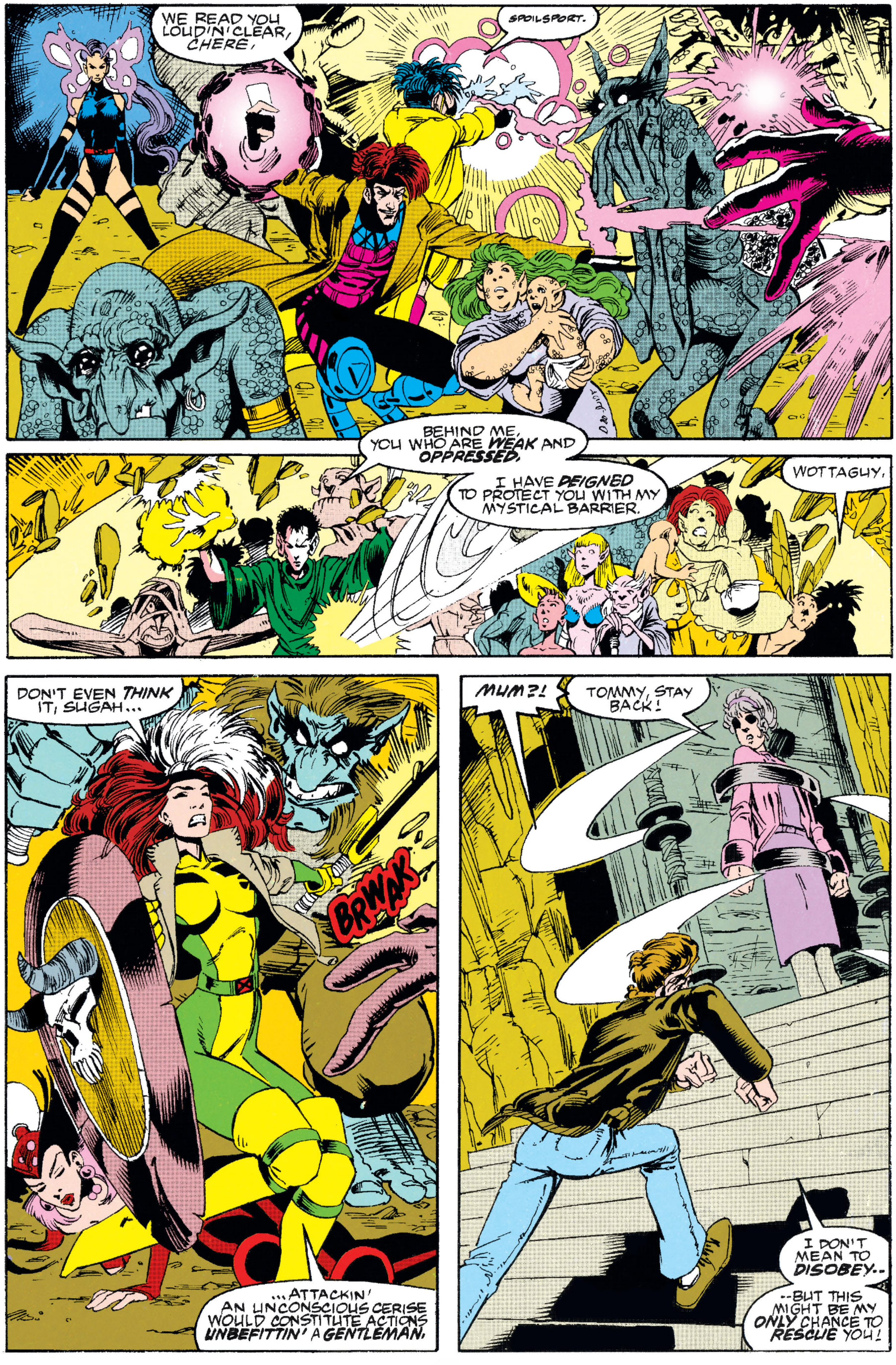

♫ "LOOK WHAT ♫ YOUUUU DID!"--EVERY ♫ KID, **ALWAYS.**
YOU MUST BE THE **METAMORPH**-- THE ONE SO FOND OF **QUOTES?**
"WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET, HONEY!" --FLIP WILSON, **GERALDINE.**

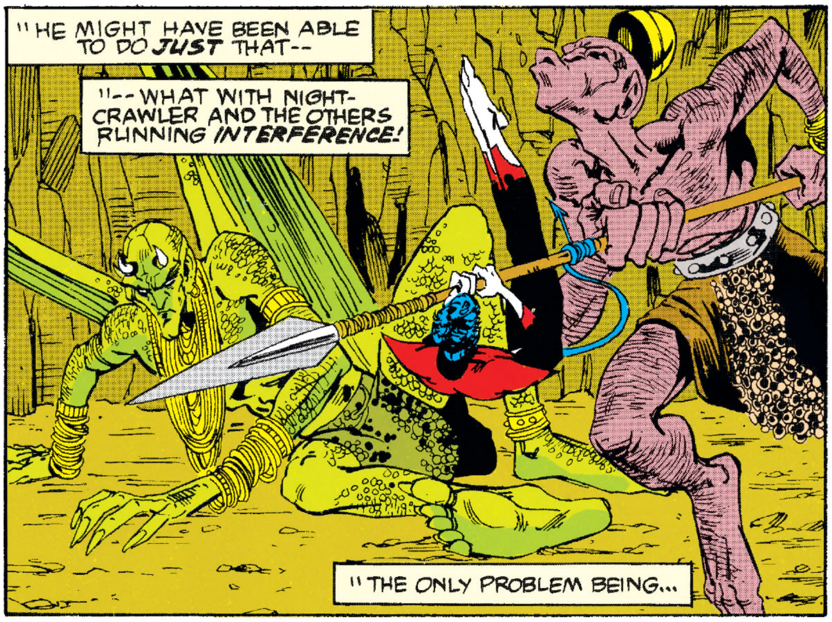

PHAY'S ALSO FOND OF SHOOTING **FLAMES** FROM HIS MOUTH, **FORMER BOSS-MAN** OF MINE!
I **ASSUMED** AS MUCH.
EXACTLY WHY I WAS COUNTING ON YOUR **PHASING ABILITY** TO GET ME CLEAR ENOUGH--
FWOOSH

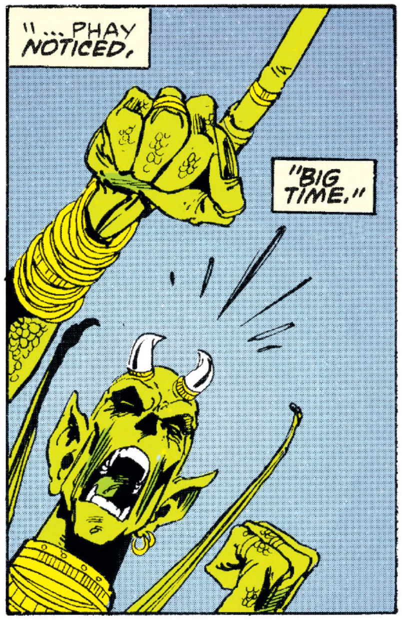

--SO I COULD USE MY **OWN MUTANT POWER** TO ITS BEST ADVANTAGE.
BONK

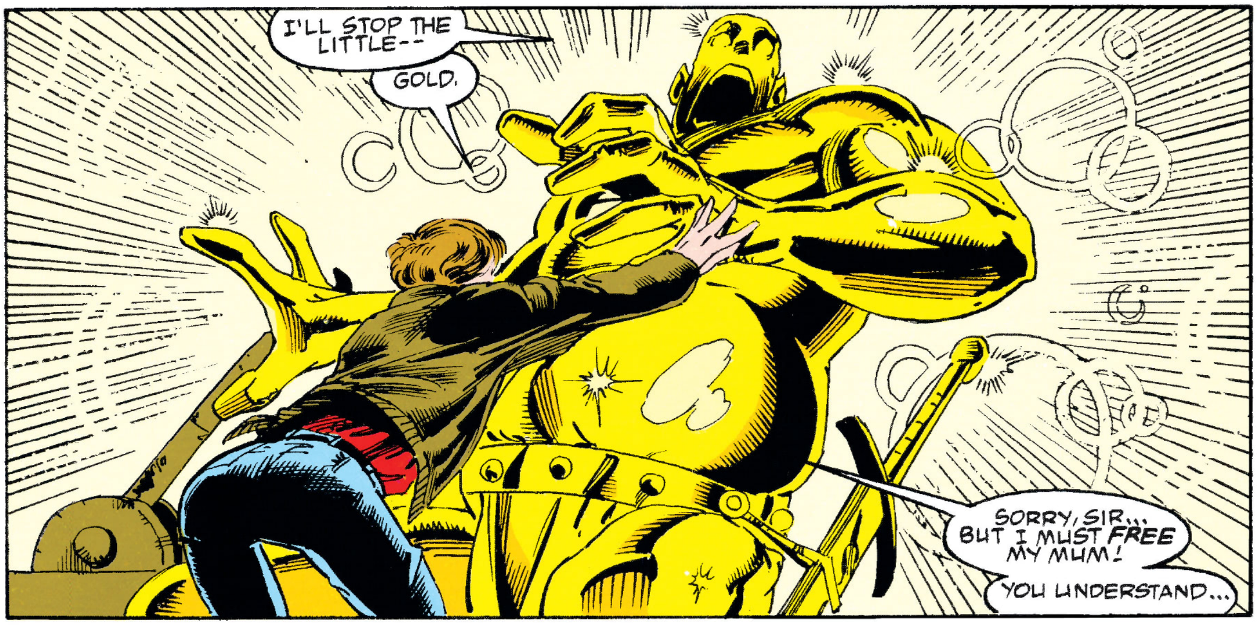

TWENTY-SIX WORDS IN **ONE** SENTENCE, CYKE?
SHADOWCAT HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM THE X-MEN FOR **SO LONG**--
--SHE'S GOING TO FORGET **LOQUACITY** IS **MY** TRADEMARKED CHARACTER FLAW.

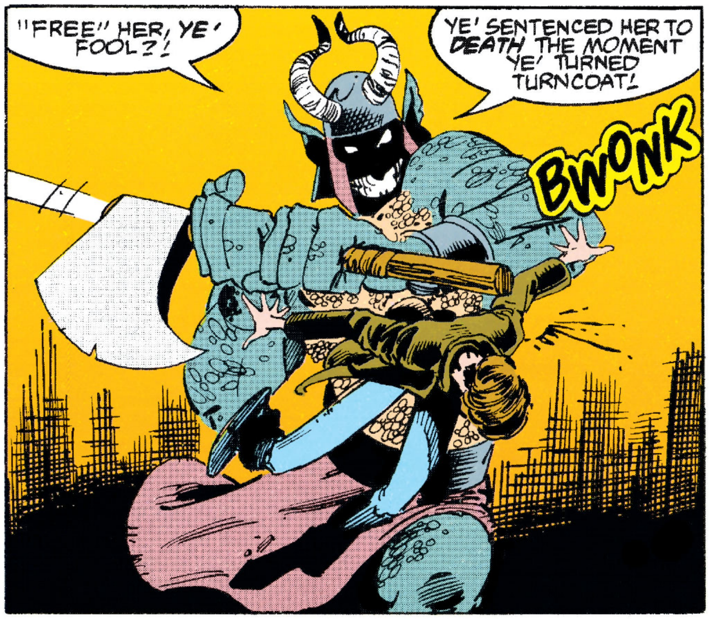

"ONE X-MAN, AT LEAST...
FSSSSS!
"...WAS RUNNING TRUE TO FORM.
"MOSTLY.
"EXCEPT FOR HIS RUBBER CLAWS.
"AND EXCEPT HE WAS MORE UPSET THAN USUAL OVER PERSONAL PROBLEMS.*
* SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF WOLVERINE. --T.K.
"AND EXCEPT THAT MAN'S NATURAL AVERSION TO TROLLS HAD TAKEN HOLD.
"ASIDE FROM ALL THAT...
"...HE WAS STILL THE BEST AT WHAT HE DID."
PTHYLOCKE, P-PLEATHE... YOU MUTHT HELP ME END THITH INTHANITY!
OF COURSE. OPEN YOUR MIND TO ME, OLD ONE...
... AND HELP PSIONICALLY DIRECT MY COMRADES TO BATTLE ONLY THE TROLLS INTENT ON BATTLE!

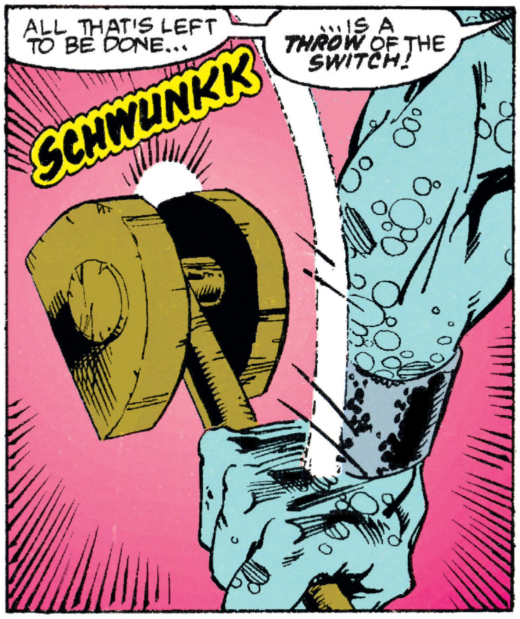

WE READ YOU LOUD'N' CLEAR, CHERE.
SPOILSPORT.
BEHIND ME, YOU WHO ARE WEAK AND OPPRESSED.
I HAVE DEIGNED TO PROTECT YOU WITH MY MYSTICAL BARRIER.
WOTTAGUY.
DON'T EVEN THINK IT, SUGAH...
BRWAK
...ATTACKIN' AN UNCONSCIOUS CERISE WOULD CONSTITUTE ACTIONS UNBEFITTIN' A GENTLEMAN.
MUM?!
TOMMY, STAY BACK!
I DON'T MEAN TO DISOBEY..
--BUT THIS MIGHT BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO RESCUE YOU!

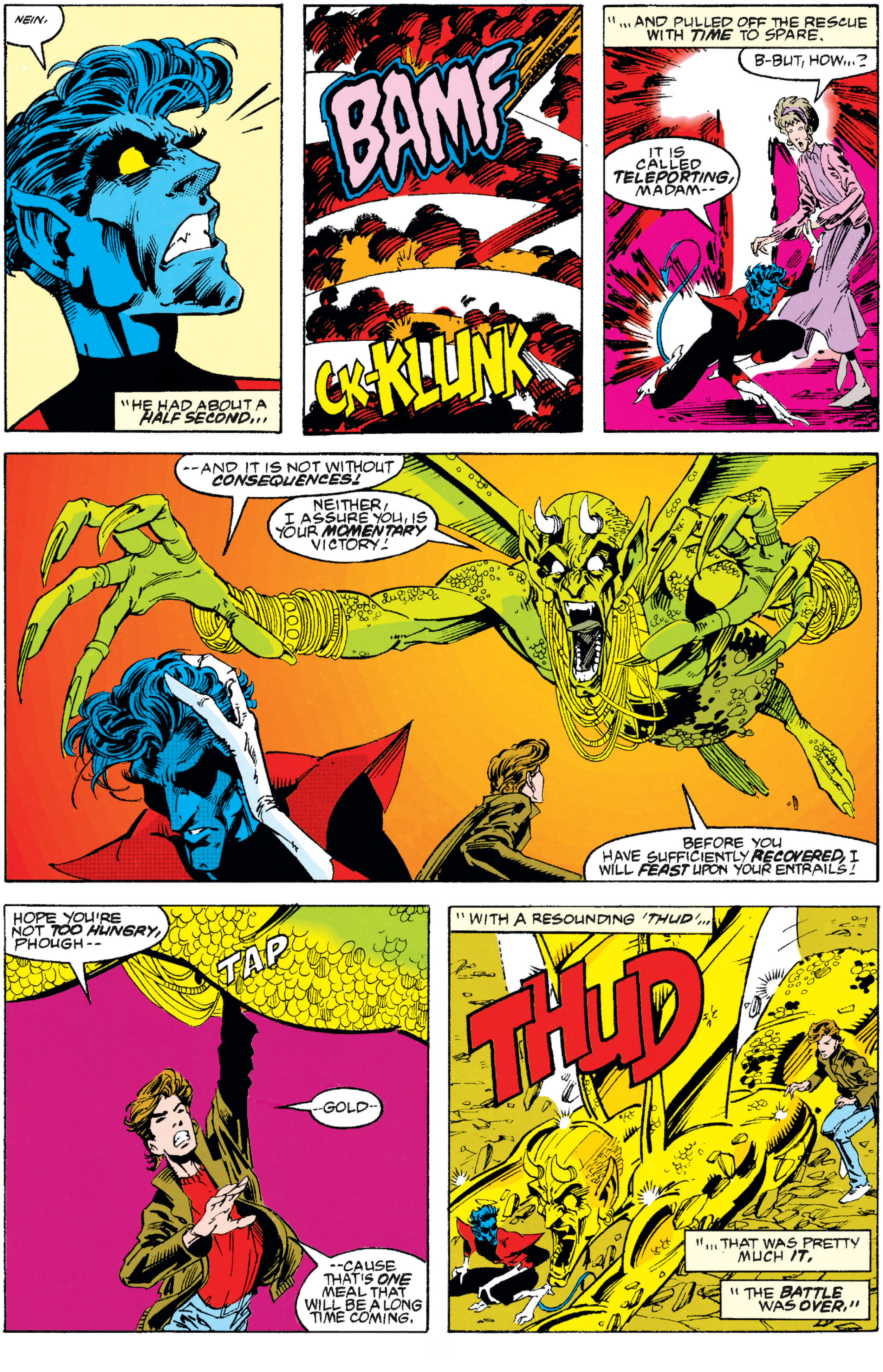

"HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO *JUST* THAT--
"--WHAT WITH NIGHTCRAWLER AND THE OTHERS RUNNING *INTERFERENCE!*
"THE ONLY PROBLEM BEING...

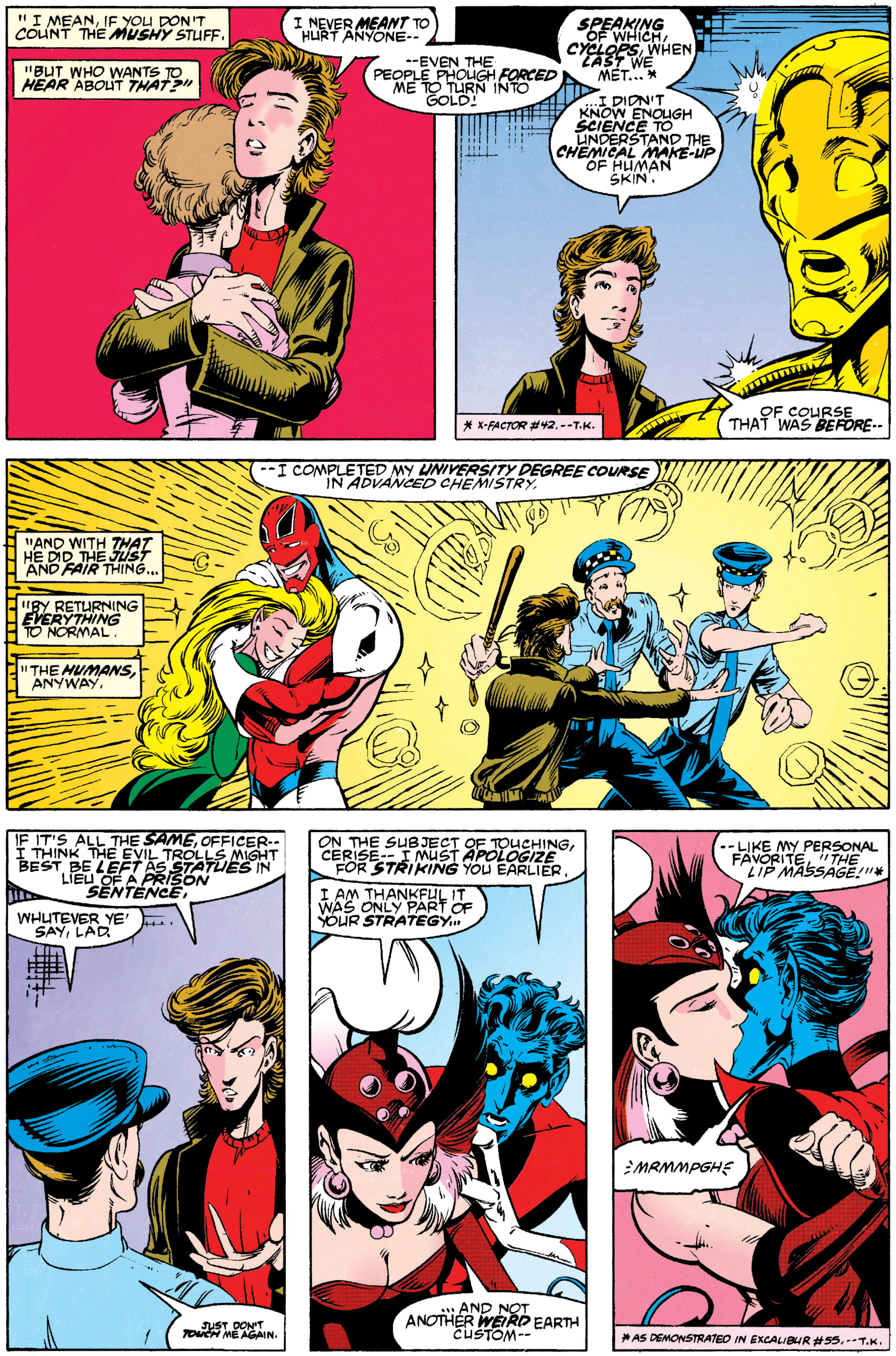

"...PHAY *NOTICED.*
"*BIG TIME.*"

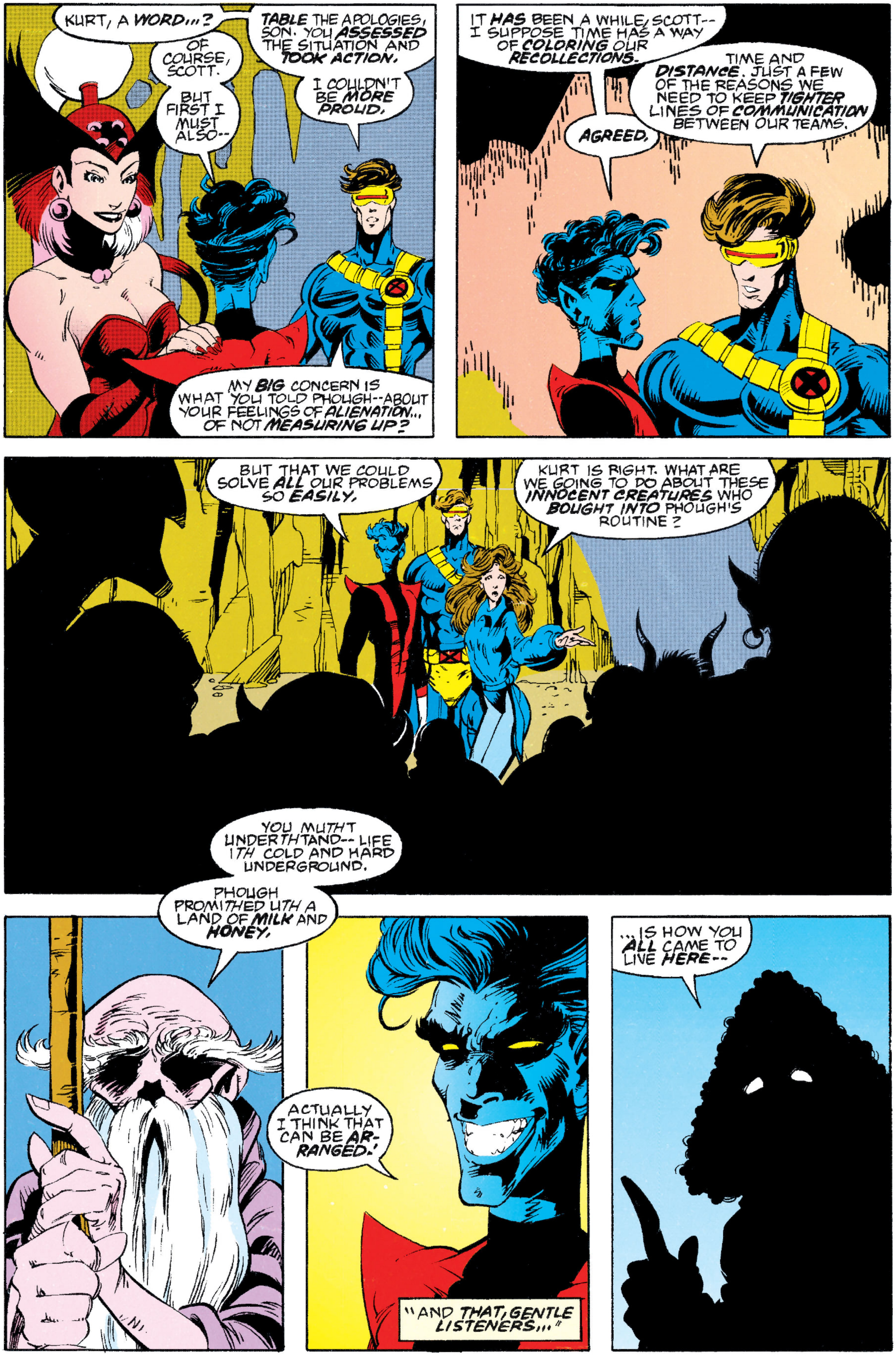

I'LL STOP THE LITTLE--
GOLD.
SORRY, SIR... BUT I MUST *FREE* MY MUM!
YOU UNDERSTAND...

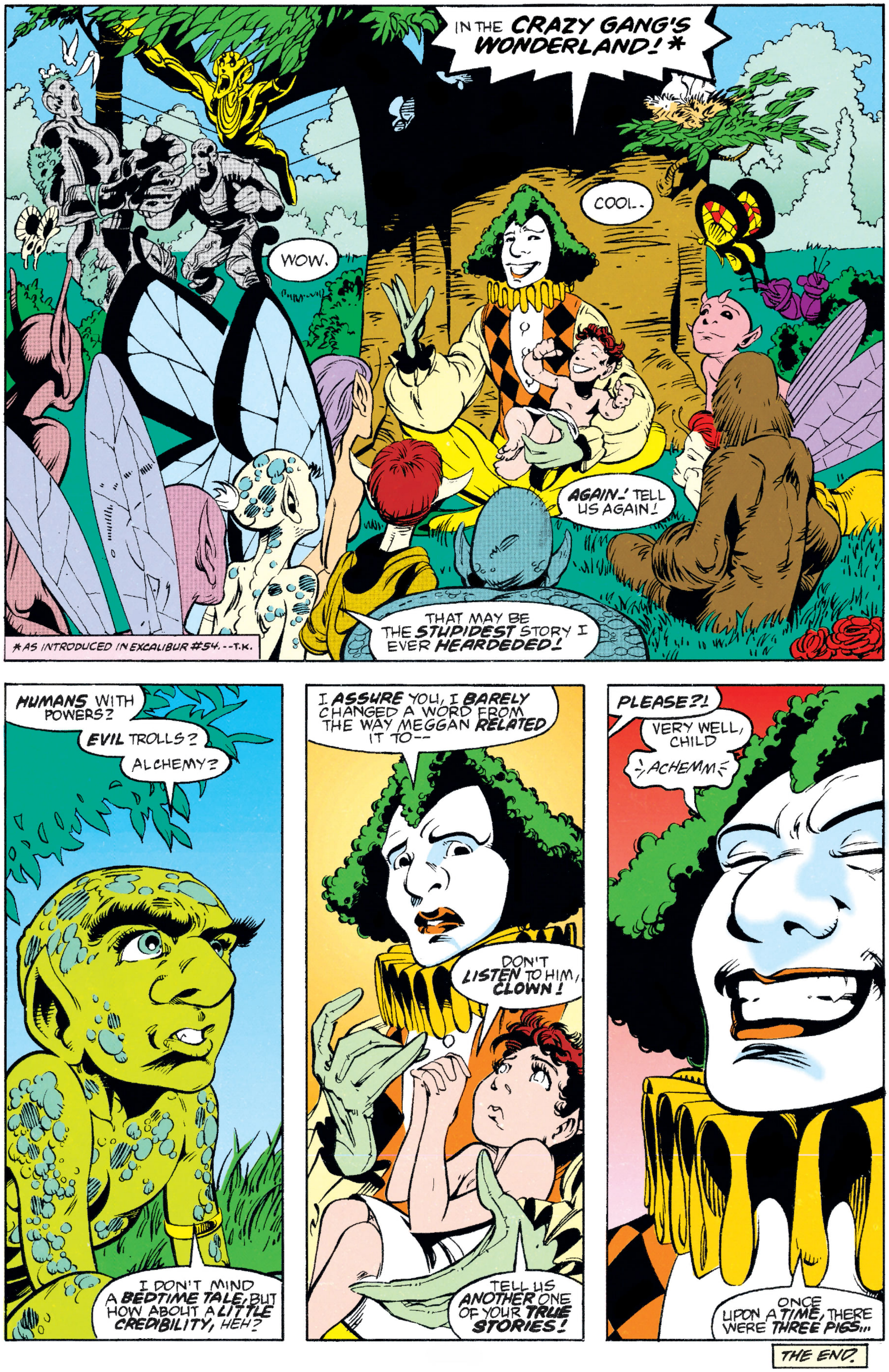

"FREE" HER, *YE'* FOOL?!
YE' SENTENCED HER TO *DEATH* THE MOMENT YE' TURNED TURNCOAT!
BWONK


ALL THAT'S LEFT TO BE DONE...
...IS A *THROW* OF THE *SWITCH!*
SCHWUNKK

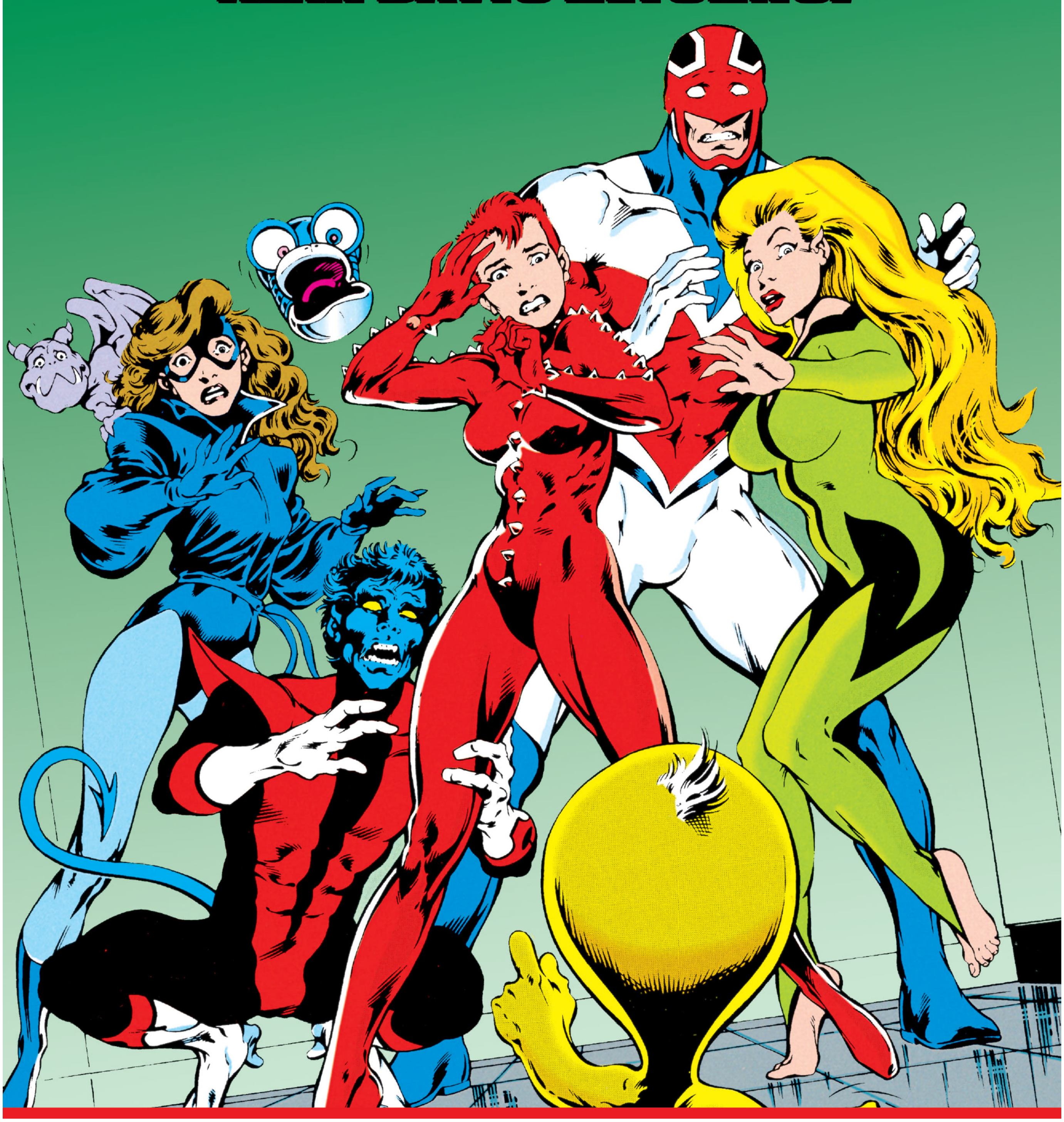

NEIN.
"HE HAD ABOUT A *HALF SECOND*...
BAMF
CK-KLUNK
"...AND PULLED OFF THE RESCUE WITH *TIME* TO SPARE.
B-BUT, HOW...?
IT IS CALLED *TELEPORTING*, MADAM--
--AND IT IS NOT WITHOUT *CONSEQUENCES*!
NEITHER, I ASSURE YOU, IS YOUR *MOMENTARY* VICTORY!
BEFORE YOU HAVE SUFFICIENTLY *RECOVERED*, I WILL *FEAST* UPON YOUR ENTRAILS!
HOPE YOU'RE NOT *TOO HUNGRY*, PHOUGH--
TAP
--GOLD--
--CAUSE THAT'S *ONE* MEAL THAT WILL BE A LONG TIME COMING.
"WITH A RESOUNDING '*THUD*'...
THUD
"...THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH *IT*.
"THE *BATTLE* WAS *OVER*."


"I MEAN, IF YOU DON'T COUNT THE MUSHY STUFF.
"BUT WHO WANTS TO HEAR ABOUT THAT?"
I NEVER MEANT TO HURT ANYONE--
--EVEN THE PEOPLE PHOUGH FORCED ME TO TURN INTO GOLD!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, CYCLOPS, WHEN LAST WE MET...*
...I DIDN'T KNOW ENOUGH SCIENCE TO UNDERSTAND THE CHEMICAL MAKE-UP OF HUMAN SKIN.
* X-FACTOR #42.--T.K.
OF COURSE THAT WAS BEFORE--
--I COMPLETED MY UNIVERSITY DEGREE COURSE IN ADVANCED CHEMISTRY.
"AND WITH THAT HE DID THE JUST AND FAIR THING...
"BY RETURNING EVERYTHING TO NORMAL.
"THE HUMANS, ANYWAY.
IF IT'S ALL THE SAME, OFFICER-- I THINK THE EVIL TROLLS MIGHT BEST BE LEFT AS STATUES IN LIEU OF A PRISON SENTENCE.
WHUTEVER YE' SAY, LAD.
JUST DON'T TOUCH ME AGAIN.
ON THE SUBJECT OF TOUCHING, CERISE-- I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR STRIKING YOU EARLIER.
I AM THANKFUL IT WAS ONLY PART OF YOUR STRATEGY...
...AND NOT ANOTHER WEIRD EARTH CUSTOM--
--LIKE MY PERSONAL FAVORITE, "THE LIP MASSAGE!"*
MRMMMPGH
* AS DEMONSTRATED IN EXCALIBUR #55.--T.K.


KURT, A *WORD*...?
OF COURSE, SCOTT.
BUT FIRST I MUST ALSO--
TABLE THE APOLOGIES, SON. YOU *ASSESSED* THE SITUATION AND *TOOK ACTION.*
I COULDN'T BE *MORE PROUD.*
MY *BIG* CONCERN IS WHAT YOU TOLD PHOUGH--ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS OF *ALIENATION*... OF NOT *MEASURING UP?*
IT *HAS* BEEN A WHILE, SCOTT-- I SUPPOSE TIME HAS A WAY OF *COLORING* OUR *RECOLLECTIONS.*
TIME AND *DISTANCE.* JUST A FEW OF THE REASONS WE NEED TO KEEP *TIGHTER* LINES OF *COMMUNICATION* BETWEEN OUR TEAMS.
AGREED.
BUT THAT WE COULD SOLVE *ALL* OUR PROBLEMS SO *EASILY.*
KURT IS RIGHT. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THESE *INNOCENT CREATURES* WHO *BOUGHT INTO* PHOUGH'S ROUTINE?
YOU MU*TH*T UNDER*TH*TAND-- LIFE I*TH* COLD AND HARD UNDERGROUND.
PHOUGH PROMI*TH*ED U*TH* A LAND OF *MILK* AND *HONEY.*
ACTUALLY I THINK THAT CAN BE *ARRANGED!*
"AND *THAT, GENTLE LISTENERS*..."
...IS HOW YOU *ALL* CAME TO LIVE *HERE*--


IN THE **CRAZY GANG'S WONDERLAND!** *
WOW.
COOL.
AGAIN! TELL US AGAIN!
THAT MAY BE THE **STUPIDEST** STORY I EVER **HEARDEDED!**
*AS INTRODUCED IN EXCALIBUR #54.--T.K.
HUMANS WITH POWERS?
EVIL TROLLS?
ALCHEMY?
I DON'T MIND A **BEDTIME TALE,** BUT HOW ABOUT A **LITTLE CREDIBILITY,** HEH?
I **ASSURE** YOU, I **BARELY** CHANGED A WORD FROM THE WAY MEGGAN **RELATED** IT TO--
DON'T **LISTEN** TO HIM, **CLOWN!**
TELL US **ANOTHER** ONE OF YOUR **TRUE STORIES!**
PLEASE?!
VERY WELL, CHILD
ACHEMM
ONCE UPON A **TIME,** THERE WERE **THREE PIGS...**
THE END.

ALAN DAVIS RETURNS!



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